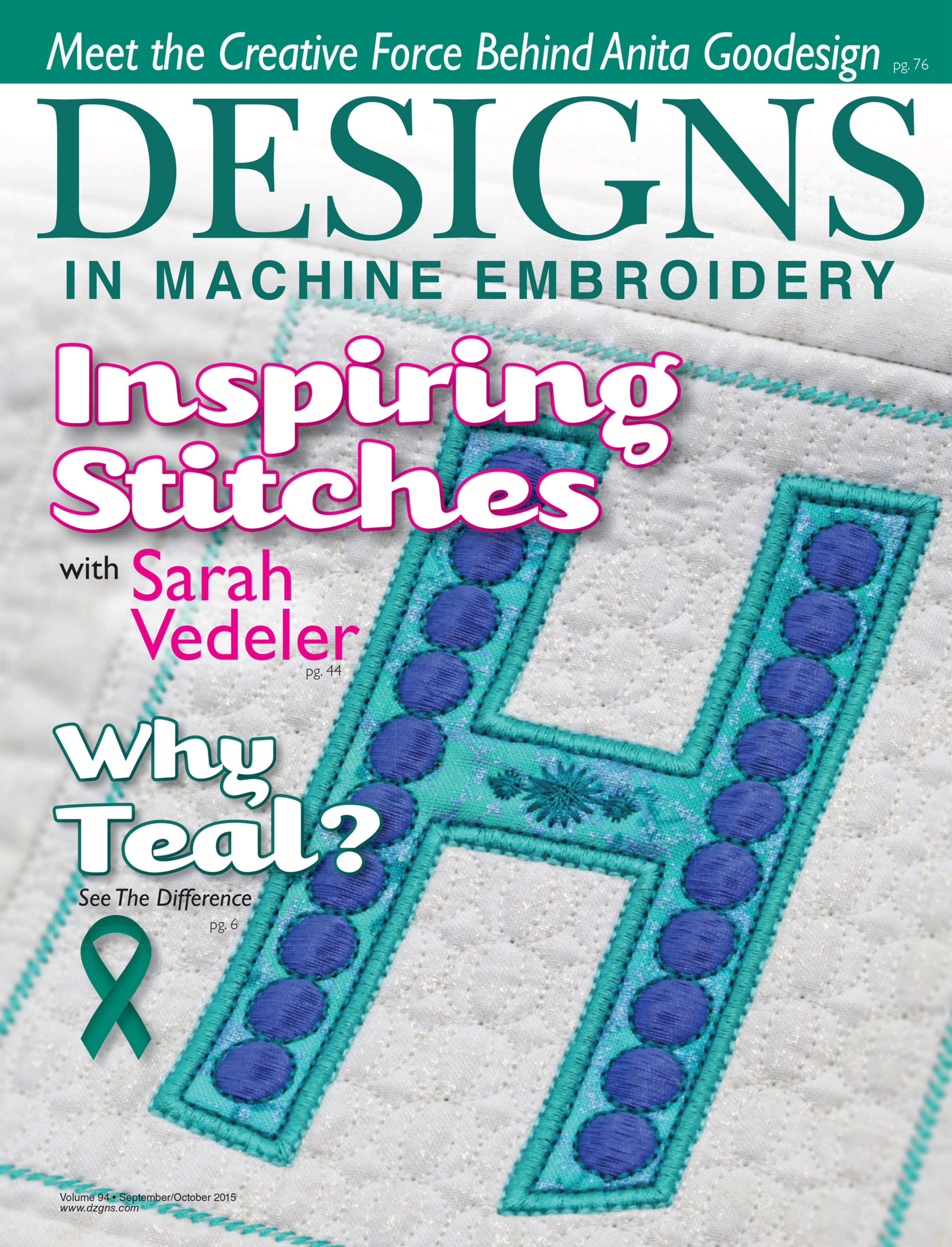
Meet the Creative Force Behind Anita Goodesign pg. 76

DESIGNS IN MACHINE EMBROIDERY



Inspiring Stitches

with Sarah Vedeler

pg. 44

Why Teal?

See The Difference

pg. 6

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Columns

4" x 4" and Fabulous!: Take Time for Tea!
Dress your table properly for high tea. Switch out dull, paper tea bags with fabric snippets and charm even the fussiest tea aficionado. 68

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Get the basic how-to and view the possibilities! 74

Get the Scoop on In the Hoop: Snap Trays
Whip up a couple fabric trays to hold jewelry, keys or more. 50

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DESIGNS
IN MACHINE EMBROIDERY

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STITCH STORY № 642:

Identical, down to the buttonholes

Grandma Madden can easily tell her adorable twin grandsons apart. But often their teachers and friends are left guessing. She set to work, using her Memory Craft 9900 to create matching denim shirts, stitched with their names, so that no one mistakes Bobby for Billy—or vice versa. To locate the dealer nearest you, please visit Janome.com/Dealers. Or visit Janome.com/StitchStories for friends, projects, and prizes.

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WHAT'S NEXT

a story in every stitch

Between Friends

Eileen Roche,
Embroidery Expert & Editor of
Designs in Machine Embroidery

As you flip through this issue, you'll see teal – teal clothing, home accessories, quilts and more. Why teal? Teal is the color of ovarian cancer awareness and September is National Ovarian Cancer Month. It's our mission at Designs in Machine Embroidery to raise awareness of this terrible disease and we could think of no better way than to stitch a mile of teal thread and build awareness stitch by stitch. You can learn more about ovarian cancer at www.BeTheDifferenceFoundation.org

Sarah Vedeler has done her part by creating a gorgeous embroidered quilt framed in teal – Celebrate Every Moment. She spells out a chant that we should all embrace – Celebrate Every Moment, Every Hour, Every Day and Then Do It Again. That's a strong message to broadcast in your home or workplace and it's a powerful reminder on just how precious life is. Learn Sarah's tips on machine embroidered applique and take advantage of her free instructional downloads. Turn to page 44 to learn more.

Showing our support for the Be The Difference Foundation by stitching teal thread – on our garments, on our bags and in our homes.

Nancy Zieman avoids 'painting herself into an embroidered corner' by thoroughly planning her projects. She shares her steps for embroidery success on page 12.

A complete out-of-the-box approach to an in-the-hoop project, you'll be amazed at how this dimensional baby blankie is created. When it arrived in our offices, we were charmed by the lamb's fringe eyelashes, perky mouth and cuddly arms. We were floored when we saw how it all goes together – and you will be too. See page 60 and be ready to swoon.

Speaking of swooning, I totally fell for Take Time for Tea, JoAnn Connolly's 4" x 4" and Fabulous project. As a tea drinker, I often feel like a second class citizen in the midst of a nation of coffee lovers. But no more – JoAnn has elevated tea drinking into a refined art. I can't wait to put the kettle on!

Happy Stitching!

Eileen Roche

www.dzgns.com/blog/

Visit Eileen's Blog for more fun from Behind the Scenes

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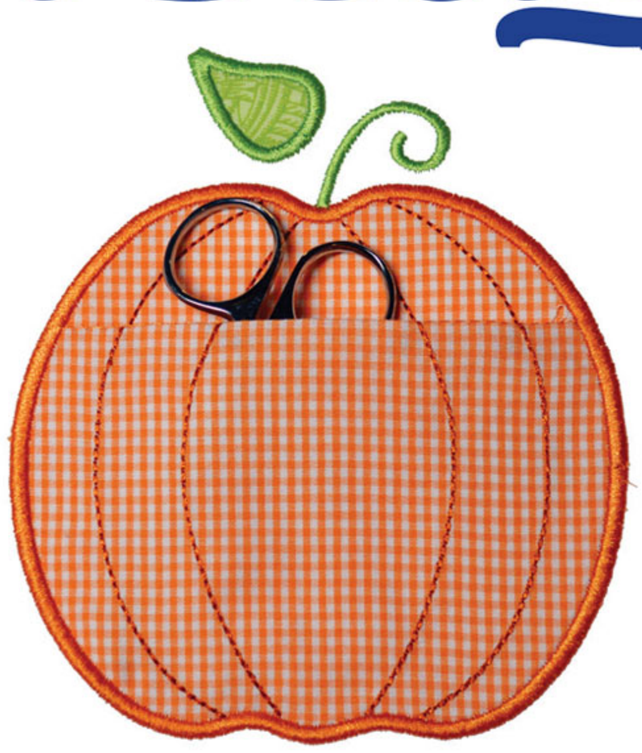

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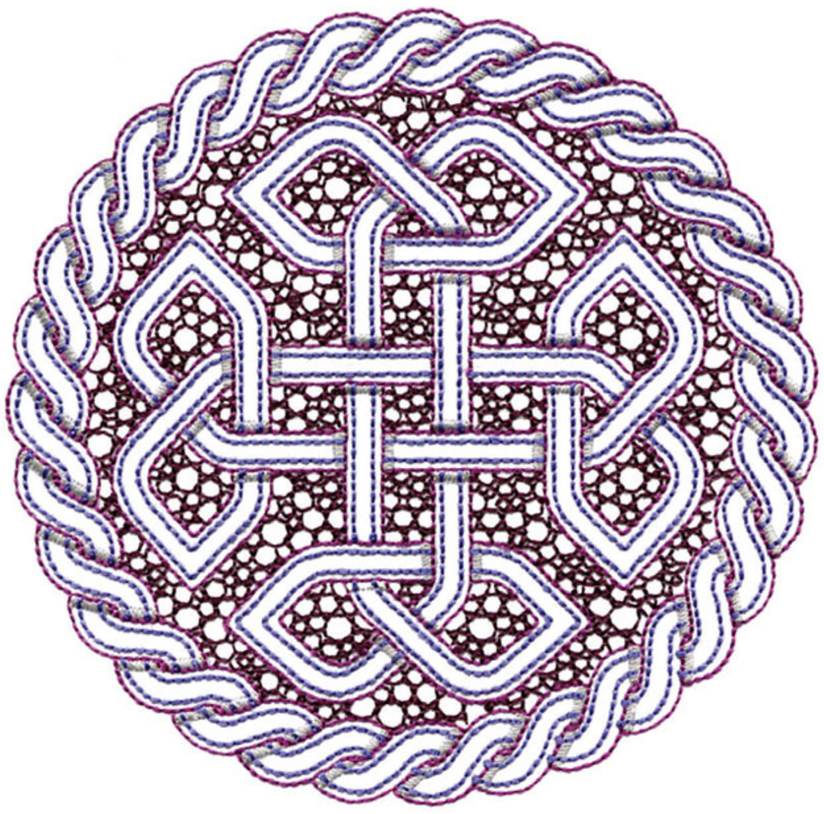

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DESIGNS IN MACHINE EMBROIDERY

You are so excited! You just completed an embroidered jacket (or shirt) and are going to wear it for the first time; you look in the mirror and your heart sinks…. The front corner embroideries don't align properly; how could that happen? You embroidered so carefully. I'm sure every embroiderer has experienced this. So read on, try some of my favorite tips, and you'll never embroider yourself into a corner again!

Corner Conundrums

By Nancy Zieman

Embroidery Products

Amazing Designs® Classy Floral Crewelwork Embroidery Designs (ADC-198)

Optional: Amazing Designs® Edit Xpress™ Software included on Classy Floral Crewelwork Embroidery Designs CD

Materials

Essex Linen (medium aqua) fabric (sizes S–M: 3 yds., sizes L–2XL: 4 yds. of 44" wide fabric)
Chinois Coat pattern (IJ885): View B
Pattern tracing paper
Machine embroidery and sewing needles
Hydro-stick™ Tear-away Stabilizer
Spray starch or Best Press™ Starch Alternative
Curved embroidery scissors
Optional: Translucent foundation paper for printed templates
Optional: Sewer's Fix-It Tape
Optional: Embroidery Reference Cards
Optional: 3mm and 4mm Hot-fix Swarovski® (Topaz) crystals

Threads

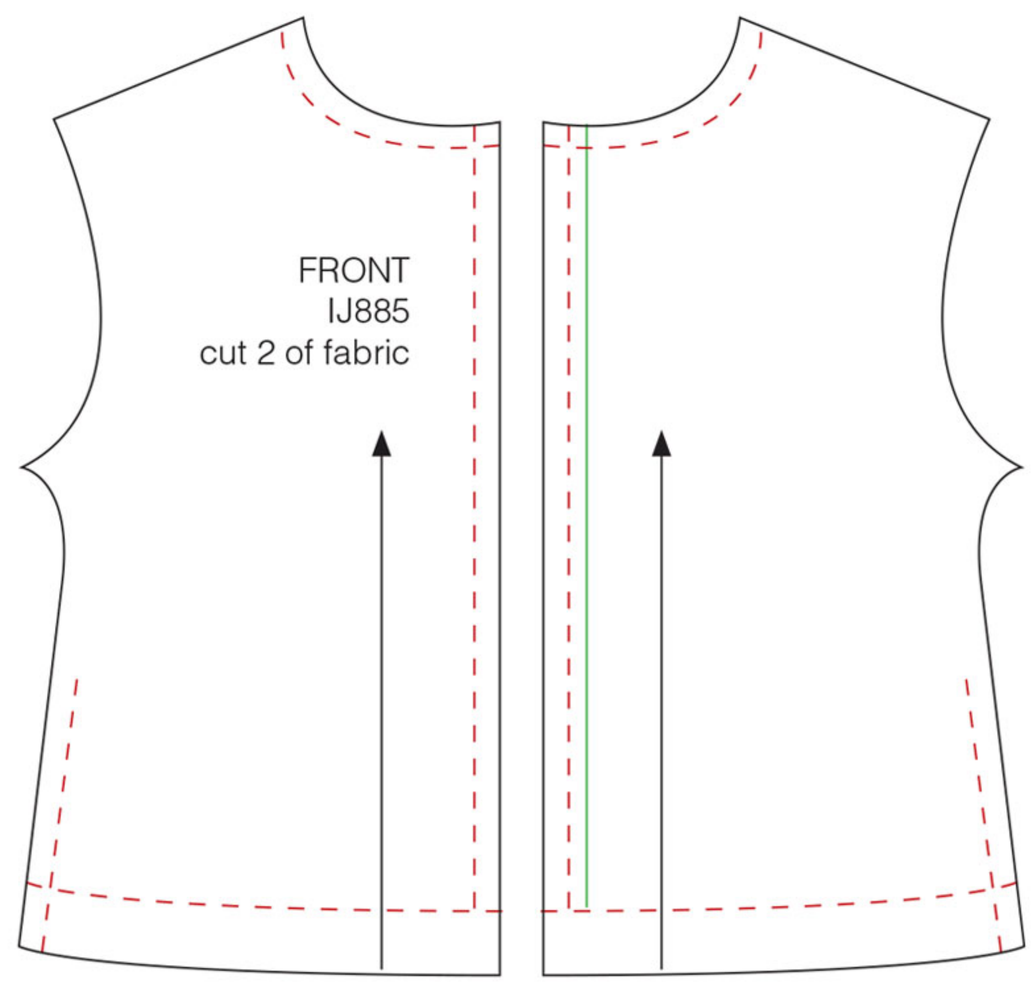
Madeira Rayon Threads (I used: 1257, 1158, and 1145.)
Prewound bobbins
Matching all-purpose thread

Note: All of the embroidery products, supplies, and threads for featured projects are available at Nancy's Notions® www.nancysnotions.com

Machine embroidery always adds that extra something special, especially to a garment. Often, it's the corners and center fronts of garments that offer the perfect show space and then are the most noticeable when they don't look right.

Prepare garment pattern

Trace the pattern fronts (right and left) onto pattern tracing paper. Mark the seam allowances along the neckline, front, and lower hem edges. If the garment has an overlapping front closure, mark the center front on both the right and left traced pieces. Also mark the extension where the right front overlaps the left front and any specific closure details, such as buttonholes. (The Chinois Coat uses snaps, so I didn't need to plan layouts around closures.) Trace two or more sets.

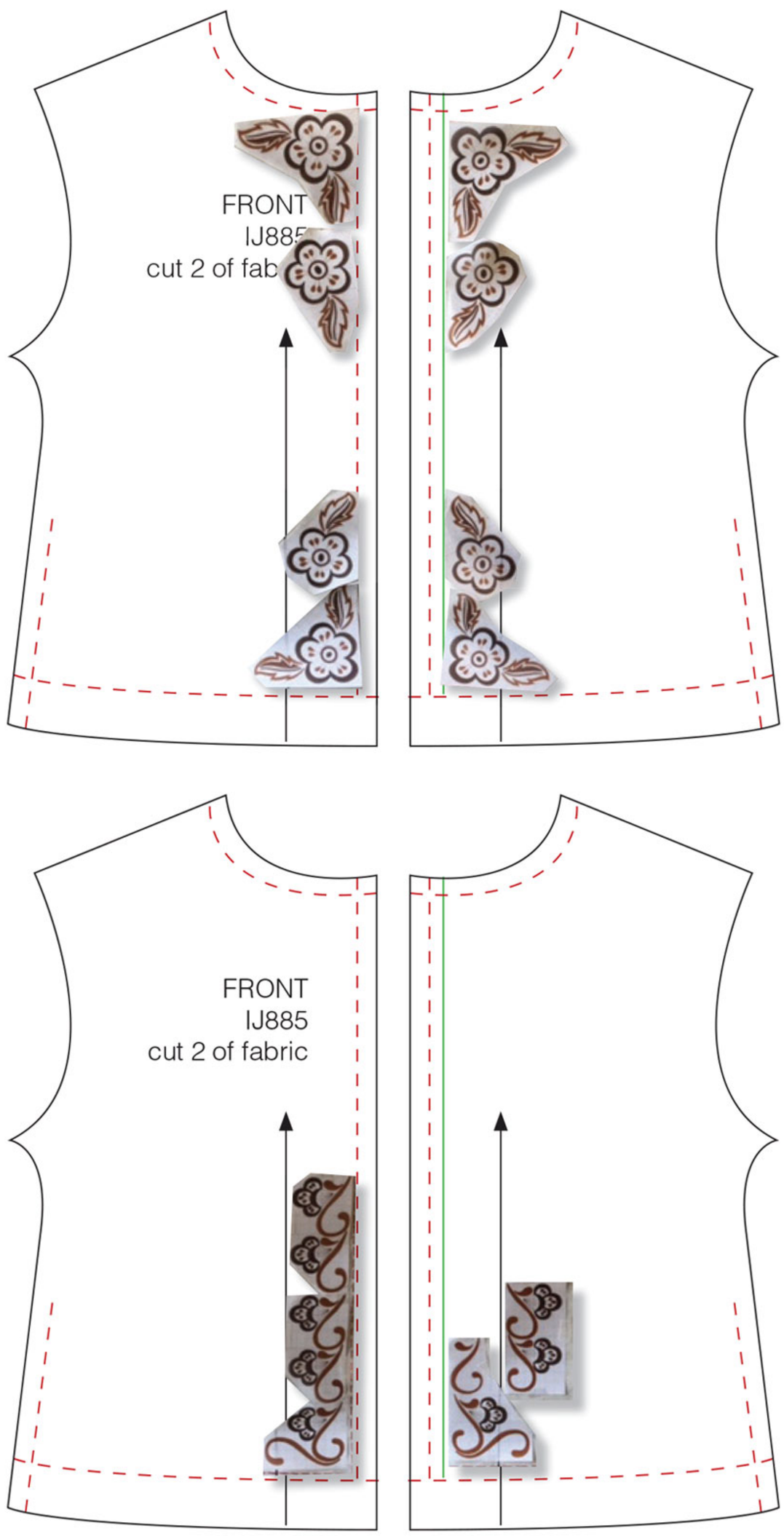


Print templates of the designs you wish to use.

Note: Try using Translucent Foundation Paper to print templates. This paper is easy to see through, making it perfect for aligning designs. Be sure to trim away excess paper from around the design for easier arranging.

Now it's time to be the designer. Arrange templates on the first set of pattern fronts. Since the templates are translucent, you'll see where seam allowances and closures are located. Then with additional templates, arrange a different layout on a second or even third set of fronts. Start in the corners and fill in between the gaps. Try symmetrical and asymmetrical layouts. When you like the layouts, tape the templates to the

paper pattern. This is also the ideal place to make notes for testing the size of the design(s), as well as editing parts of designs for perfect positioning. I taped the portion of the template to the side of my layout as a reminder to make that change to the design with my editing software.



Pin the sets of pattern fronts to a design wall if you have one, or take a quick digital photo of each layout. The idea is to get some distance so you have a better overall look at each design option. Pick your favorite. I found asymmetrical layouts are more forgiving when projects have a mind of their own.

Trace pattern front cutting lines on the fabric, adding any markings as instructed in the garment pattern instructions. Transfer the templates to the garment fabric, using the traced paper pattern as the "map". Or, tape or pin the traced paper pattern with its templates directly onto the marked garment fabric.

Prepare a purchased garment

I use this same method for auditioning templates on a purchased garment. Pin or tape the templates in position.

Snap a series of digital photos, changing the layout between each photo shoot.

Use the photos to view different layouts and determine your favorite. Refer to the photos to repeat that arrangement again on the garment.

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Stitch Designs

Take the extra time to test thread color stitch-outs.

(Refer to my tips in Stitch-Out Strategy, DIME Vol. 90, pp.12–14.)

Use pieces of remaining fabric after cutting out the garment. Or, purchase a ¼ yd. of a similar color/weight fabric for the ready-made garment test stitch-outs. Also select the optimum stabilizing method from the testing process. (I used one of my favorites, Hydro-stick™ Tear-away Stabilizer.)

Insert a new embroidery machine needle. Hoop stabilizer, position and apply the garment piece or corner area to the hooped stabilizer. Attach hoop to the machine.

Remove template (carefully cut away portions of the traced paper pattern as needed) and you're ready to stitch. Use thread colors determined from the test stitch-outs. Embroider the corners first. Then, stitch the designs between the corners. You can adjust the spacing or design size slightly as you go. When the corners are correct, any tiny "fudge factors" will never be visible.

Remove fabric or garment from the hoop, and gently remove excess stabilizer.

Hoop another piece of stabilizer.
Repeat the embroidery process for remaining designs.

Place the embroidery face down on a padded ironing surface.

Complete Jacket

1. Complete the garment following the pattern instructions.

2. Add Hot-fix Swarovski crystals to bring extra sparkle to beautiful embroidery.

With a little extra preparation, you too, will embroider corners confidently!

Download a free embroidery layout guide for the Chinois Coat at www.nancysnotions.com/dimeV94

Nancy Zieman is host and executive producer of Sewing With Nancy® on public television and founder of Nancy's Notions®. Embroidery thread, supplies, and a free catalog are available from Nancy's Notions®. Call 800.833.0690 or visit the Nancy's Notions website at nancysnotions.com.

Mark Your Calendar!

It's "sew" easy to Be the Difference!

You can be the difference in the fight against ovarian cancer with these four exquisite projects by Eileen Roche, Founder and Editor of Designs In Machine Embroidery Magazine.

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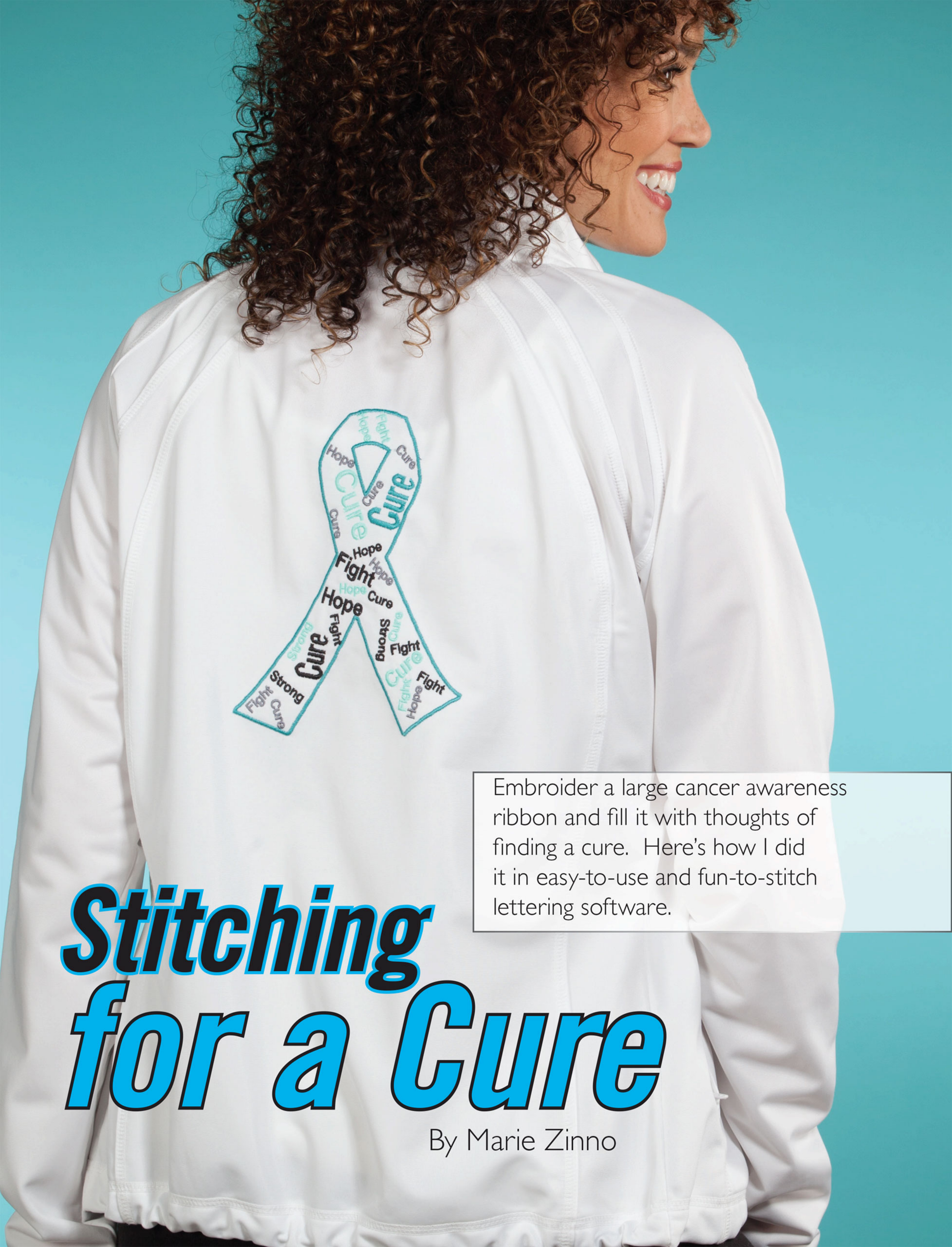


Embroider a large cancer awareness ribbon and fill it with thoughts of finding a cure. Here's how I did it in easy-to-use and fun-to-stitch lettering software.

Stitching for a Cure

By Marie Zinno

Embroidery Products

Word Art in Stitches embroidery lettering software program available at DIME Inspirations dealers only

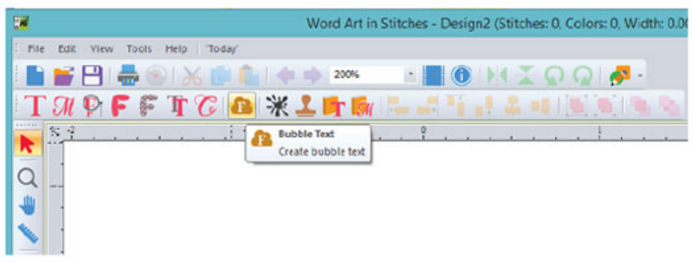
Materials

One woman's purchased zip-front jacket

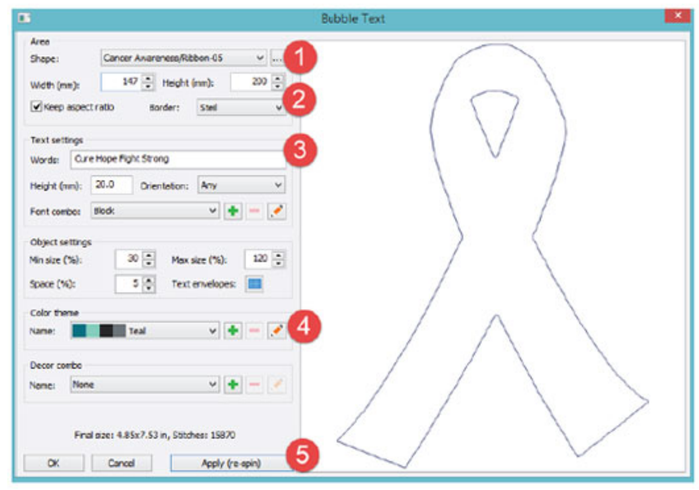
Polymesh cut-away stabilizer

At the Computer

Open a new file in Word Art in Stitches. Click on the Bubble Text icon – just hover the mouse over an icon to quickly identify the icon's function.



A menu appears with several options for quick customization.



1 Select the artwork outline. I chose a ribbon.

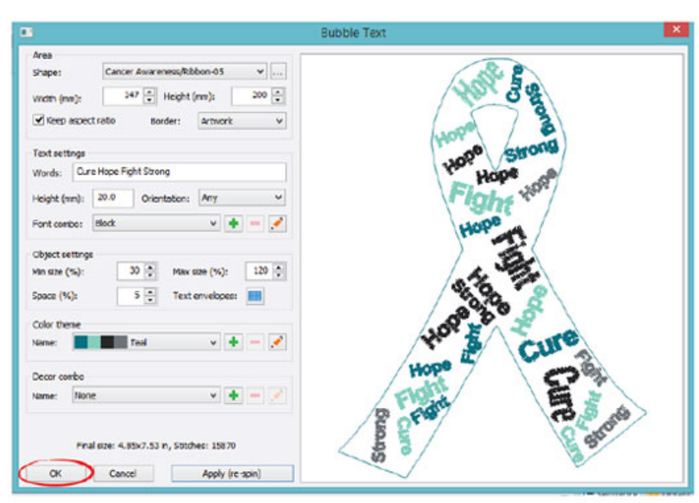
2 Select how you want the outline to appear: run or steil stitch or no visible outline.

3 Type in the words. Skip prepositions, just insert a few words.

4 Select a thread palette. See sidebar for making custom palettes.

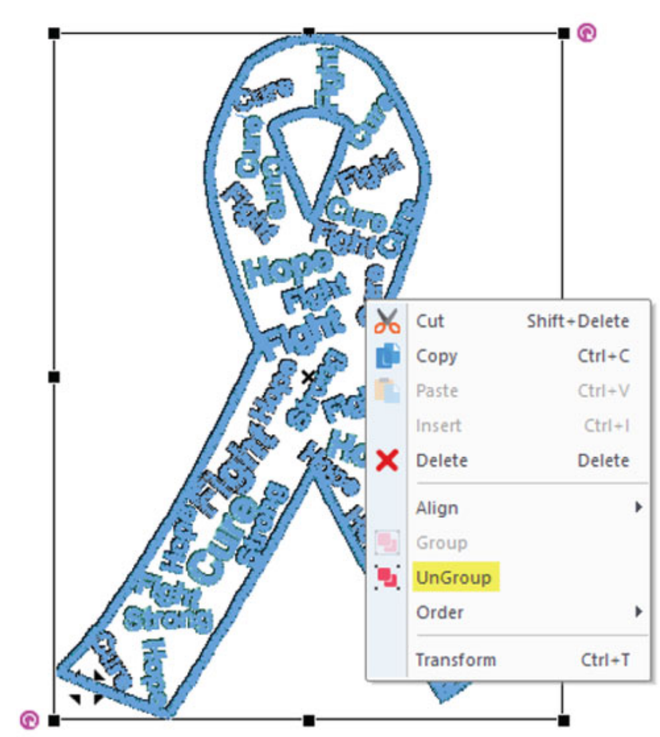
5 Apply is where the magic happens. Click to view your work. Continue to click to see random creations.

Once you like what you see, click Ok.



The menu will dissolve and you'll find your new embroidery design on the screen.

If you'd like to tweak the design (and who can't leave well enough alone?), select the design, right mouse click and select Ungroup.



Select the Text icon and click on each individual word to make any changes you'd like.

You have so much freedom in Word Art in Stitches. You can transform a word into an envelope shape.

Save the design, print a template and send the design to your machine.

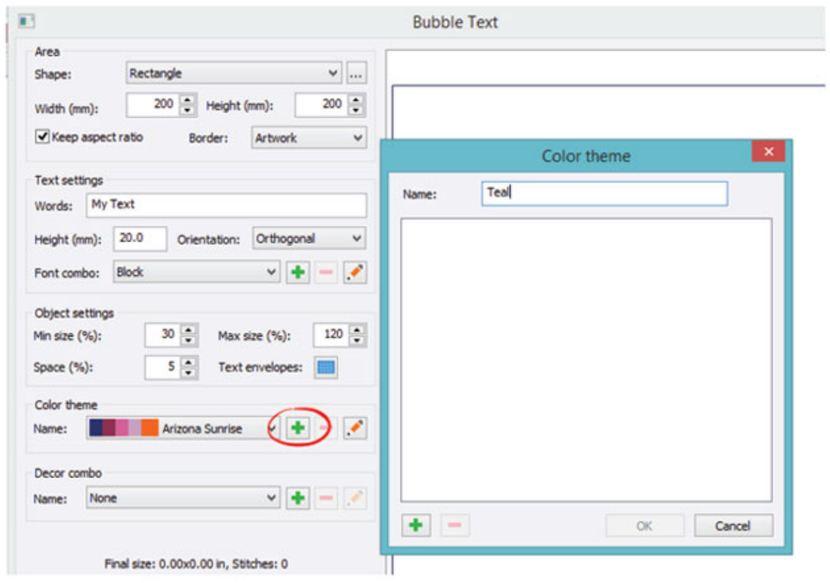
Embroider

Find the center of the jacket back and mark it with a target sticker. Hoop the jacket with cut-away stabilizer, centering the target sticker. Embroider the design.

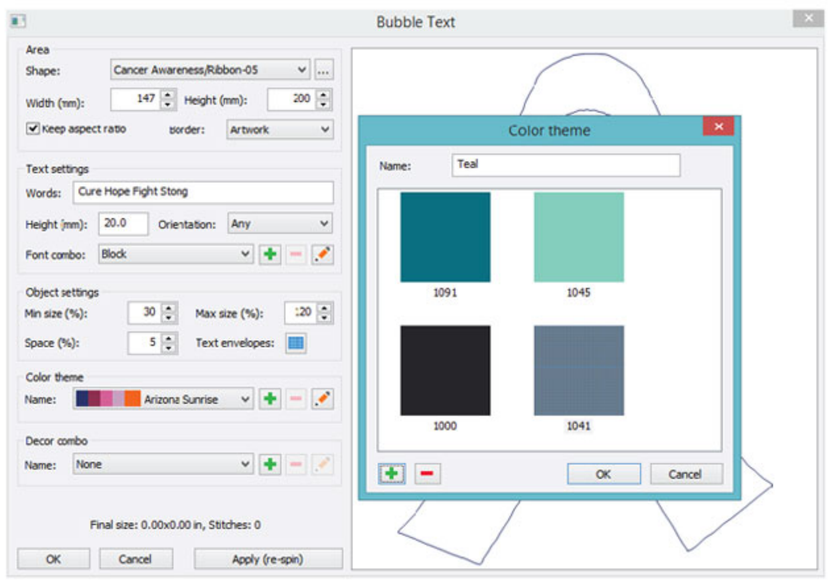
Creating a Custom Thread Palette in Word Art in Stitches

In the Bubble Text window, click on the plus sign next to the default thread palette, Arizona Sunrise.

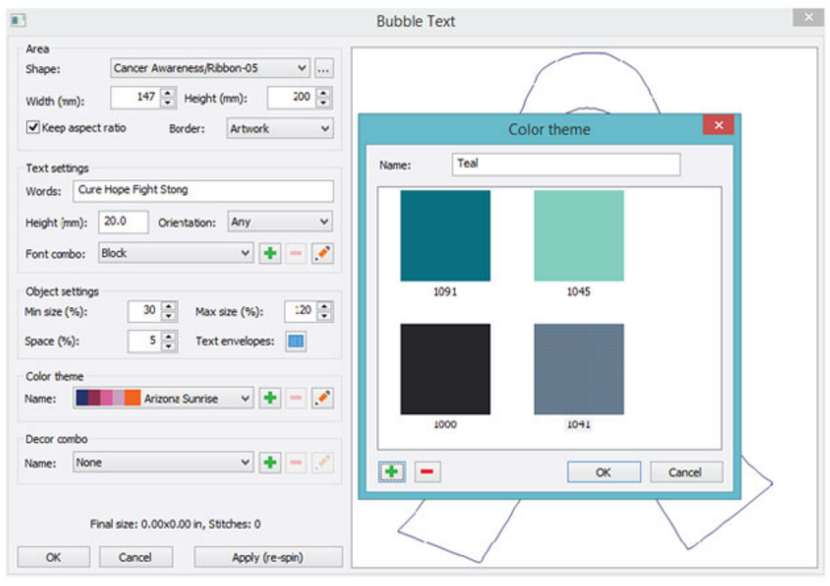
Type a new title in the color theme window that appears. I assigned Teal to this palette.



Click on the plus sign at the bottom of the Color Theme box and select a thread from the pop-up color chip box. Click Ok in that window to add a color to the palette. Continue to add as many as you'd like.



I've settled on five colors: dark teal, light teal, jet black and slate gray.



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Turning Over a New Leaf

By Katherine Artines

Need to add punch in a time crunch? Add a seasonal scarf or sash to an existing jacket. It's a fast project that could display as much or as little embroidery as you'd like.

The Autumn Leaves collection is perfect for this type of project. The set includes both appliqué and free standing leaf designs. Open the designs in embroidery editing software and print templates of the leaves you want to add.

Determine the length of your scarf. On this jacket, the scarf starts at the lower right front, goes up over the shoulder and diagonally down the back to the bottom left hip. Cut the scarf about 7-8" longer to give room for scrunching. If you have to piece, sew it on the diagonal to make it easier to hide the seam. The finished scarf measures from 5" to 6" wide. For embroidering, cut the width wider to allow for hooping.

Decide placement, leaving enough area to later add an organza leaf, and mark with a target sticker. Notice that the leaves are not vertical or horizontal, rather they look as if they are swirling down.

Embroidery Products

Autumn Leaves, A Bit of Stitch
www.abitofstitch.com
Embroidery editing software
Tear-away stabilizer
Wash-away mesh stabilizer

Materials

Purchased or constructed jacket (As You Wish Jacket pattern shown)
¼ to ½ yd. rayon batik or linen (fabric with drape) for scarf
Assorted colored organza (www.Ghees.com)
¼ yd. light gray tulle
Assorted embroidery threads
Optional: beads, trims, ribbons

Scarf/Sash Embroidery

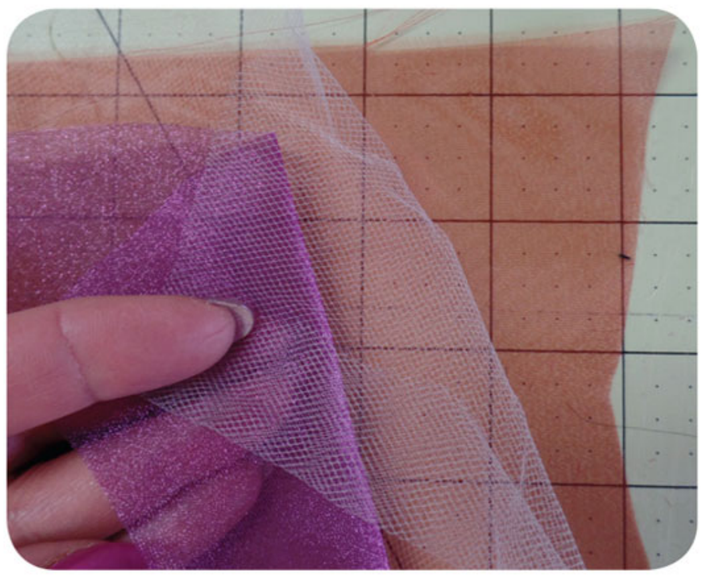
Hoop tear-away stabilizer and the scarf/sash fabric centering the target sticker.

Stitch the stand-alone leaf design. If you are using an appliqué design, use the advance key on your machine to move past the placement and tack down sections; you'll only want to stitch the outline of the leaf and the stems. To keep some symmetry, I used one thread color for all

leaves stitched on the scarf. Rehoop and complete all the leaves on the scarf. Remove all stabilizer carefully.

Stand Alone Leaves

For each stand-alone organza leaf, create a sandwich of organza—tulle—organza.

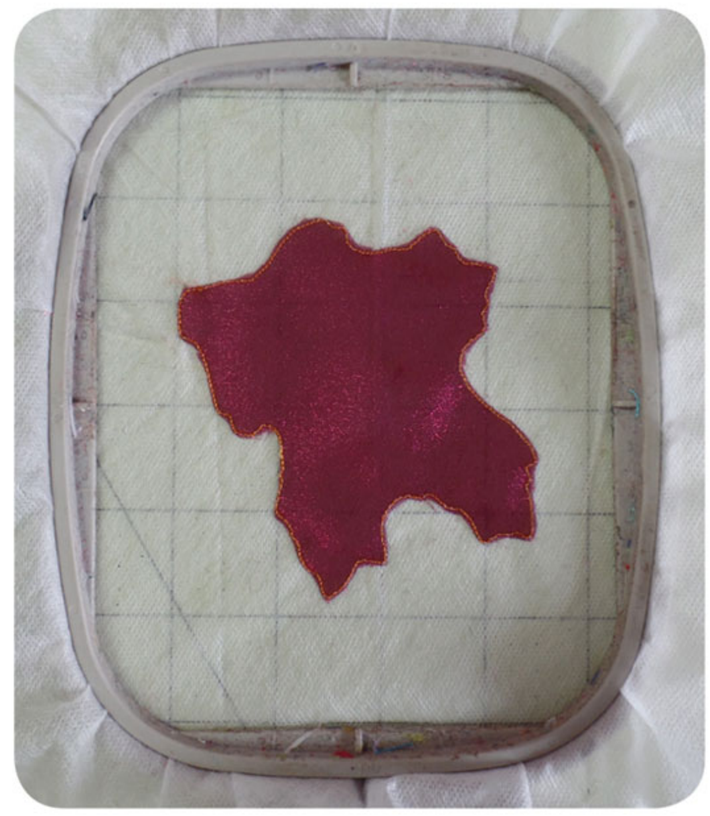


Mix and match the top and bottom layers of organza for a different leaf color. Choose a tulle color such as light gray to blend with any of the organza colors. It acts as a permanent stabilizer for the stems and satin stitching after the water soluble stabilizer has been rinsed away. The size of each sandwich should be about 1" larger all around than the leaf design.

Hoop wash-away mesh stabilizer. Stitch the placement line on the stabilizer.

Lay the sandwich over the outline. Stitch the tack down.

Remove the hoop from the machine and carefully trim away the excess organza/tulle.



Return the hoop to the machine and stitch the remaining colors of the design. Trim away the mesh stabilizer close to the satin stitching, being careful not to cut the threads.

Place the trimmed leaves in warm water long enough to remove all stabilizer; refer to the manufacturer's instructions. If any tulle still shows at the edges, carefully trim or burn away with a craft soldering iron, wood burning tool, or stencil cutter.

Attaching the Scarf/ Sash

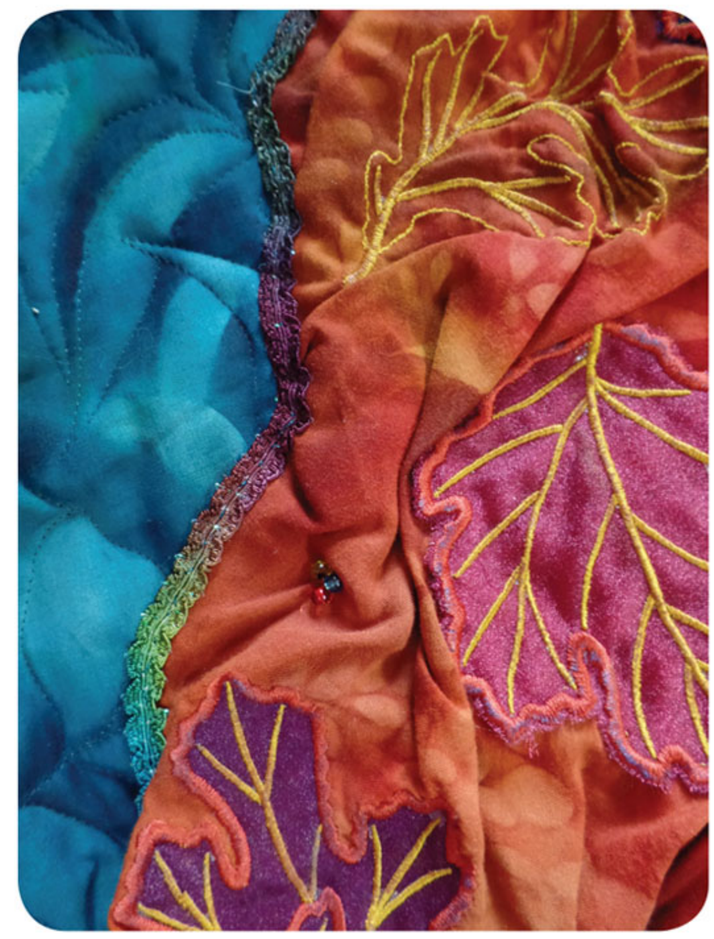
Trim the embroidered scarf to 6" wide (or to your determined width) and lay it on the jacket. Scrunch the scarf in places, making hills and valleys in the fabric. Don't be afraid to have some of the stitched leaf covered a bit in the scrunching. At the same time, turn under ¼" – ½" of the raw edge. Pin in place.

Machine or handstitch the scarf to the jacket along the edges. You may also want to anchor the middle of the scarf here and there with a 0 length zig zag stitch or bar tack. (If your machine has a stitch to sew on buttons, it would be a good one to use.)

With the scarf anchored to the clothing, place your organza leaves in the open areas. Strategically position the leaves to accent the scarf and hide any anchor stitches or seaming. You can even place a leaf extending off the edge onto the jacket.

It isn't necessary to sew around the entire edge of each leaf. Leave an edge area free; if it curls a little all the better, it adds a life-like feel to the leaves.

If desired, stitch soft, pliable ribbon or decorative trim where the scarf edge meets the garment and add beads randomly.



Leaf it to you to look fabulous in your autumn jacket!

To add the 2 ½" wide finished ruffle to the As You Wish Jacket, cut a strip 6" by the v-neck measurement x 2. Each long raw edge was gathered separately, pinned together and sewn within the seam. This ruffle would not be appropriate for fabric without body. If further instructions are necessary or you would like to purchase the As You Wish Jacket pattern, contact me at kateartdesigns@gmail.com

Luxurious Loungewear

By Joanne Banko

Pretty pajamas are hard to find and expensive to buy. So why not make your own luxurious set? You'll find these pajamas are perfect for sleeping or for lounging around the house. Treat yourself to this silky set or make it as a special gift.

Embroidering the accents on the pant leg and the border along the front requires accuracy in alignment. There are of course many methods for stitching continuous designs. In my book, Wrapped in Embroidery, I outline three different methods with options for both low tech and no tech solutions. However, I am always experimenting with new ideas. The methods presented here make use of the many special features found on THE Dream Machine, making precise placement for this project easy.

Embroidery Products

THE Dream Machine - Brother Model XV8500D
Wrapped In Embroidery book and design collection by Joanne Banko.
DIME Target Stickers for embroidery placement
Brother 5" x 7" embroidery hoop
Brother 8" square embroidery hoop
Size 80/12 Topstitch needle for embroidery on crepe back satin
Non-fusible cut-away mesh stabilizer. I used Pellon Soft-N-Stay, a lightweight version of this embroidery basic.
Teal and Deep Rose embroidery threads
Low tack tape that won't harm fabric. I used blue painter's tape.

Fabric, Pattern, and Additional Supplies

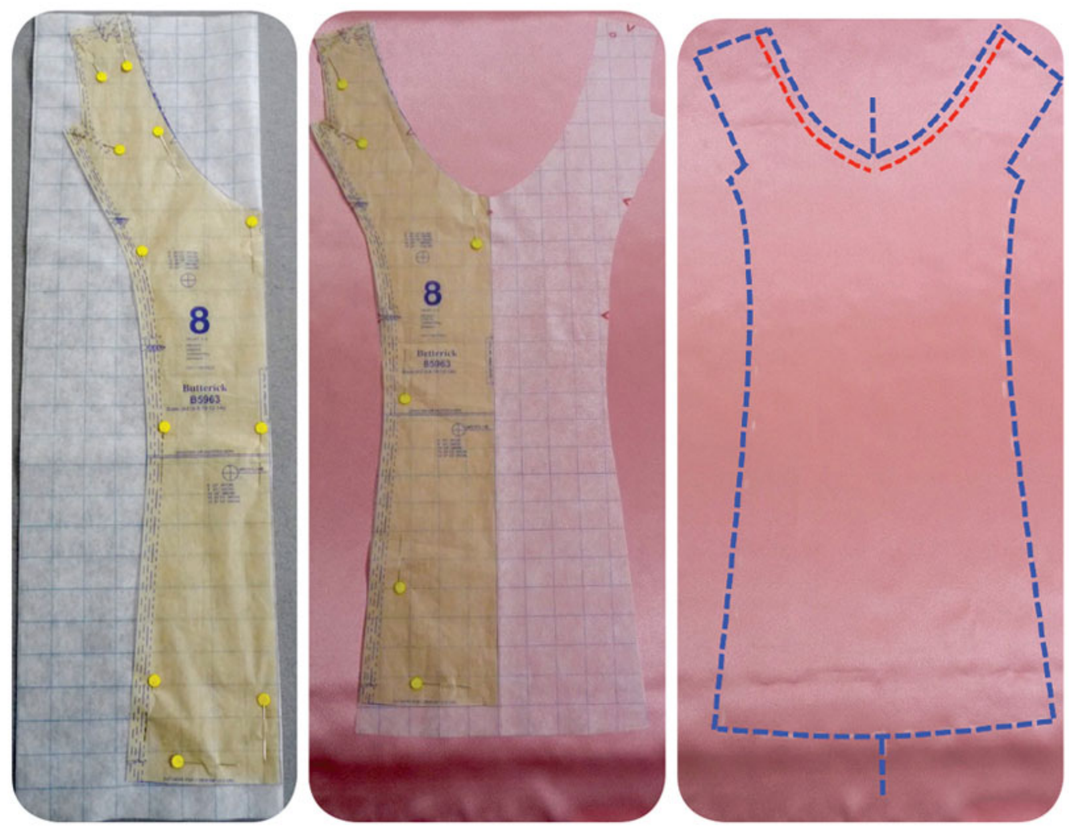
Pattern: Look for a pattern with a princess seam camisole top and straight leg pajama pants. I used Butterick pattern 5693 with a plan for creating a two-color top. Do a trial layout to determine exact yardage or take your modified pattern pieces with you when you shop. Please read all instructions before beginning. Make any necessary personal pattern alterations before cutting fabric.

Fabric: Synthetic crepe back satin is ideal for this project. It's easy to sew and a dream to wear. Purchase fabric #1 (pink) for the center section of the camisole, along with ¼ yard of additional yardage for contrasting strips on the pants. Purchase fabric #2 (teal) for pants, according to pattern requirements. Purchase additional yardage from fabric #2 for camisole. The neckline features bias trim. I opted to cut these pattern pieces from fabric #1.

Lightweight fusible tricot knit or all bias soft knit interfacing for lining center of camisole.
Pattern tracing cloth for center section of camisole.
Size 10 Microtex needle for garment construction.

Step 1. Prepare pattern and cut fabric #1 for camisole front

Prepare center section of camisole pattern by tracing the pattern onto a folded piece of pattern tracing cloth, creating a whole pattern instead of a half. Mark all notches and symbols.



Use pattern to cut fabric #1, cutting an oversized rectangle for center section with four additional inches beyond the bottom hem. Before removing pattern use chalk or a wash out marker to roughly trace the pattern outline, noting the center of the top and bottom, along with the seam allowance at the neck. Set piece aside temporarily.

Step 2. Prepare and embroider contrast strips for side of pants

From remaining fabric, cut two, 2 ¾" wide strips along the cross grain, having these strips measure side seam of pants plus several additional inches.

Hem the long side edges with a 3/8" seam allowance and then press each strip until it is smooth. I used a shell tuck hem for a delicate scalloped edging.

Joanne's Tip

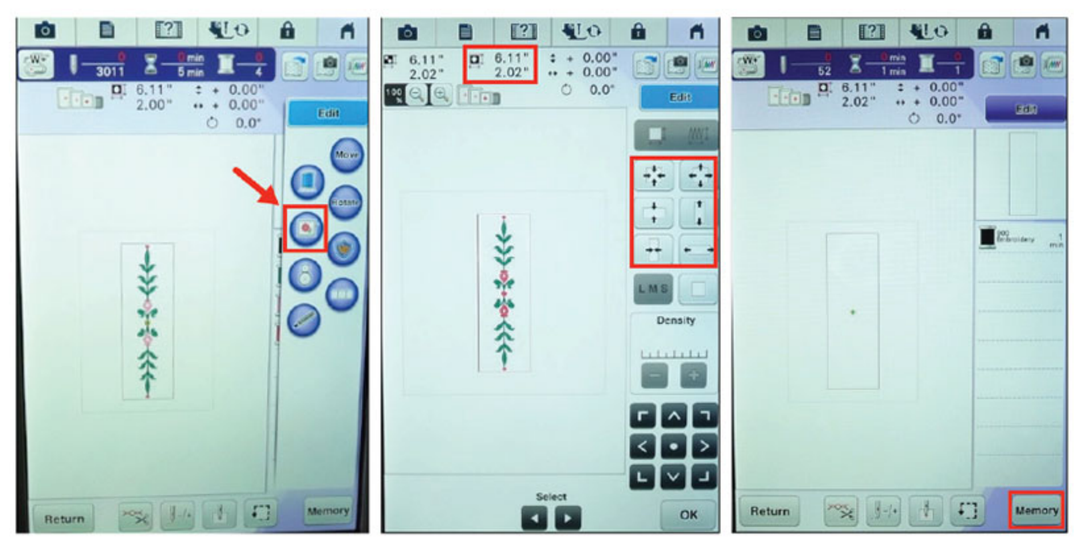
This shell tuck hem is one of my favorites for finishing edges on fabrics like crepe back satin. Visit my website, www.letsgosew.com for hemming instructions and more tips included in a Free tip sheet for sewing this fabric.

To embroider each strip begin by hooping mesh stabilizer in 5" x 7" hoop.

Transfer motif 09_01 to the machine and proceed to embroidery screen. Touch Edit and add a basting stitch.

To re-size the basting outline touch Return > touch Edit > touch Size > re-size to equal 6.11" x 2.02" > touch OK.

Next, select the motif and delete it from the screen. Proceed to embroidery. Save basting outline to memory so you can use it separately with each and every border design.

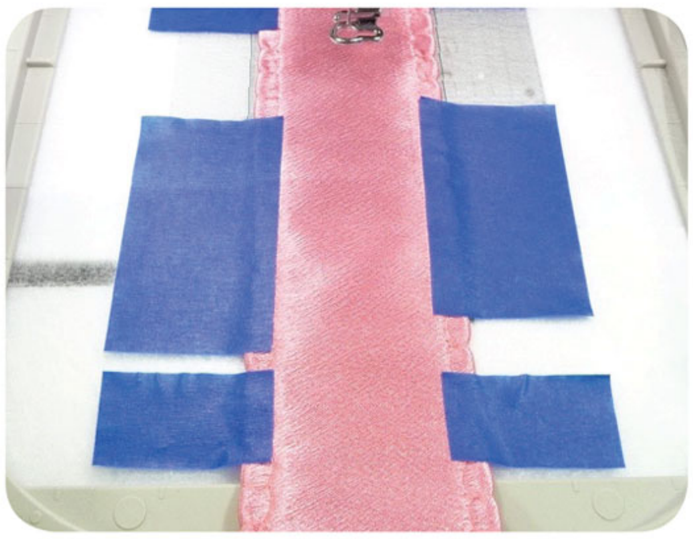


Embroider both strips following the method below for a continuous border:

Embroider the basting outline.

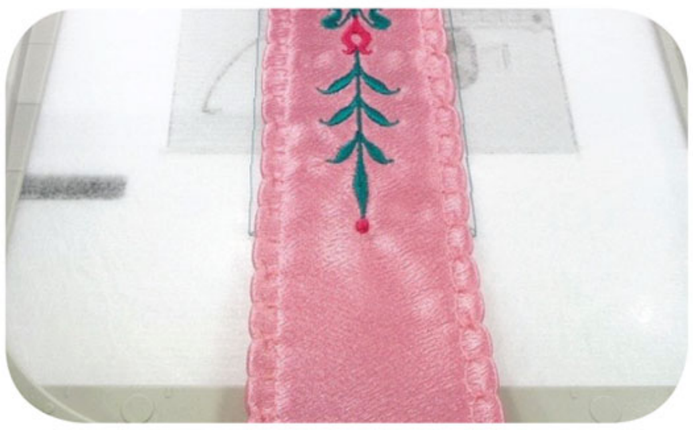
Exit the screen and select motif 09_01.

Center the strip within the basting outline, beginning a couple inches from one end of the strip. Use basting box to help you keep the strip perfectly straight, then tape the strip along outer edges.



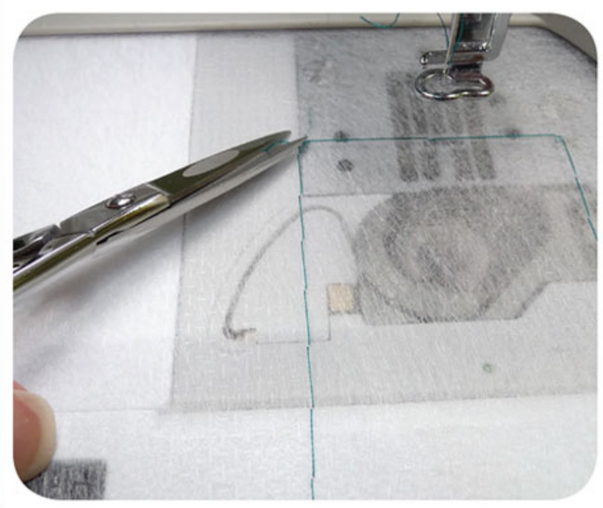
Embroider first motif along center of strip and remove tape.

Remove from hoop and carefully trim excess stabilizer.



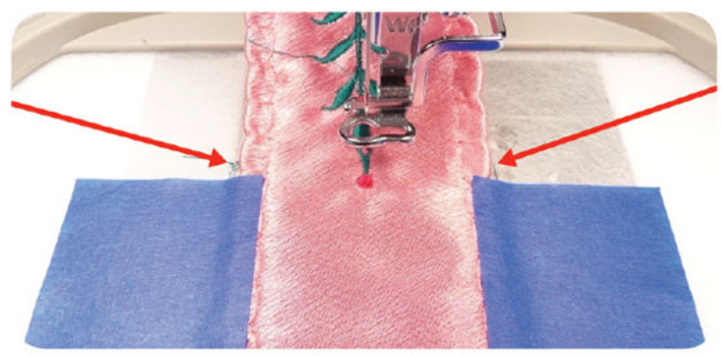
Joanne's Tip

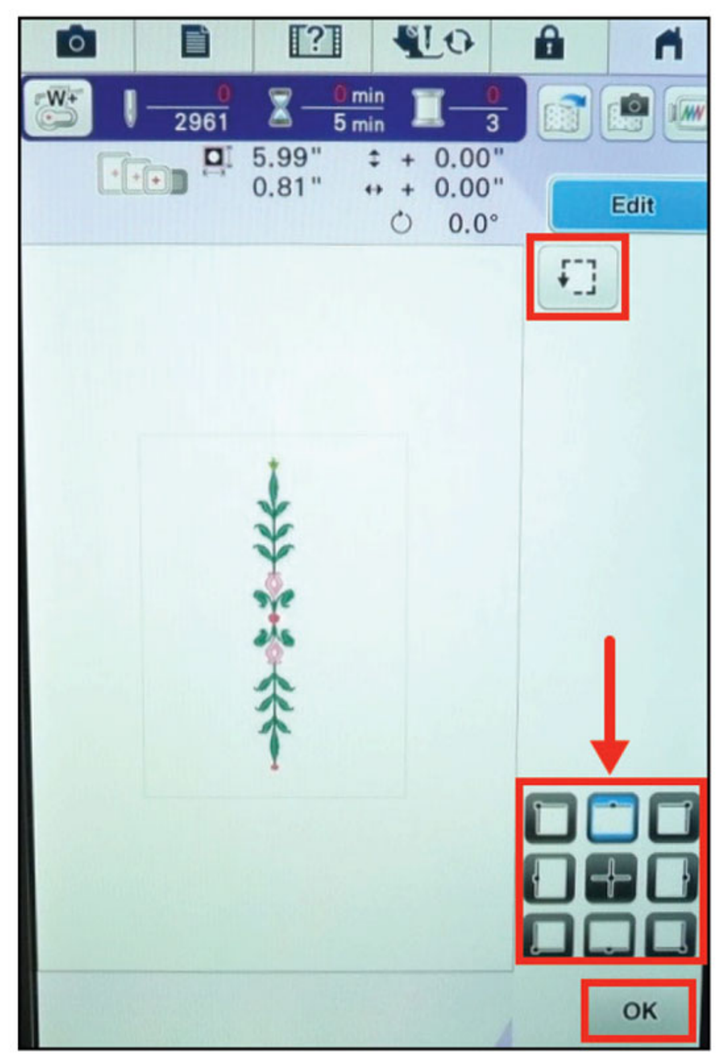
Sometimes the basting stitch doesn't catch on very thin fabrics or stabilizers. To help form the stitch, simply send the needle down and up, and then pull up bobbin thread tail. Hold for the first few stitches and trim the tail when basting is complete.



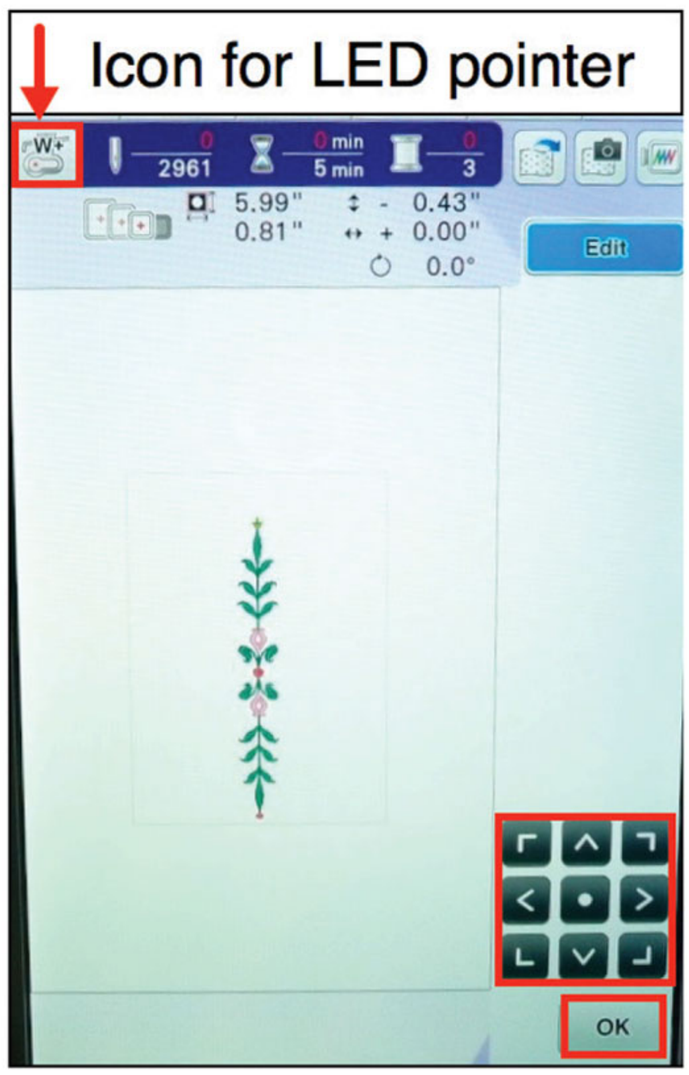
Hoop a new piece of stabilizer and stitch basting as you did before. Exit the screen and select motif 09_01. Tape the next portion of the strip within the basting outline so that the bottom of the previous design is near the top of the basting box, centering the strip as you did before.

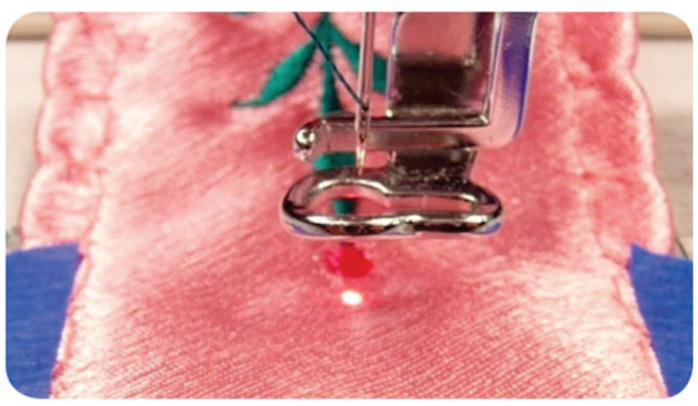
Proceed to Embroidery > touch Trial key > touch Top Center position > touch OK.





To accurately align the next motif first touch the icon to turn on the LED pointer. This Droplight™ feature precisely shows the top center of the next design. To adjust the position and align the second design with the first, touch Edit > touch Move > use arrow keys until the LED light is just below the bottom of the first motif.



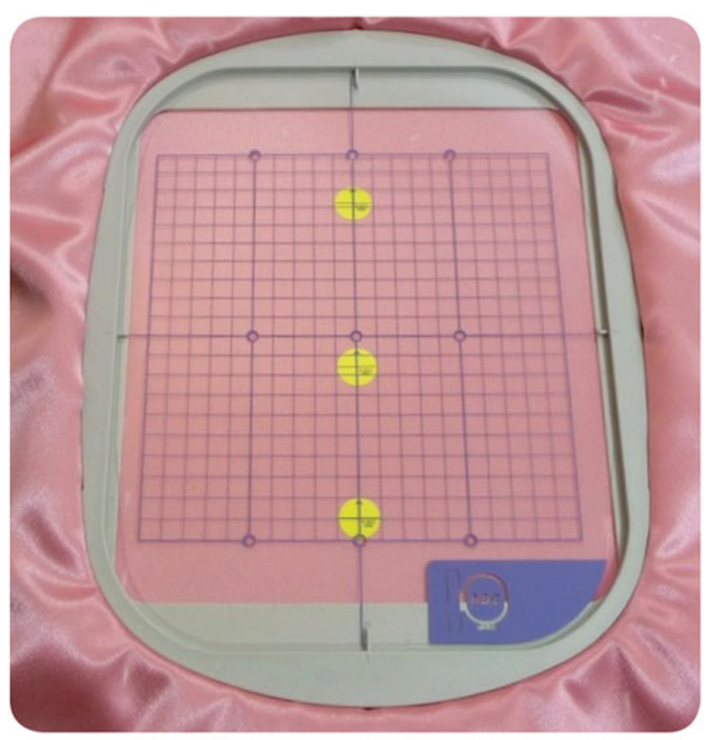


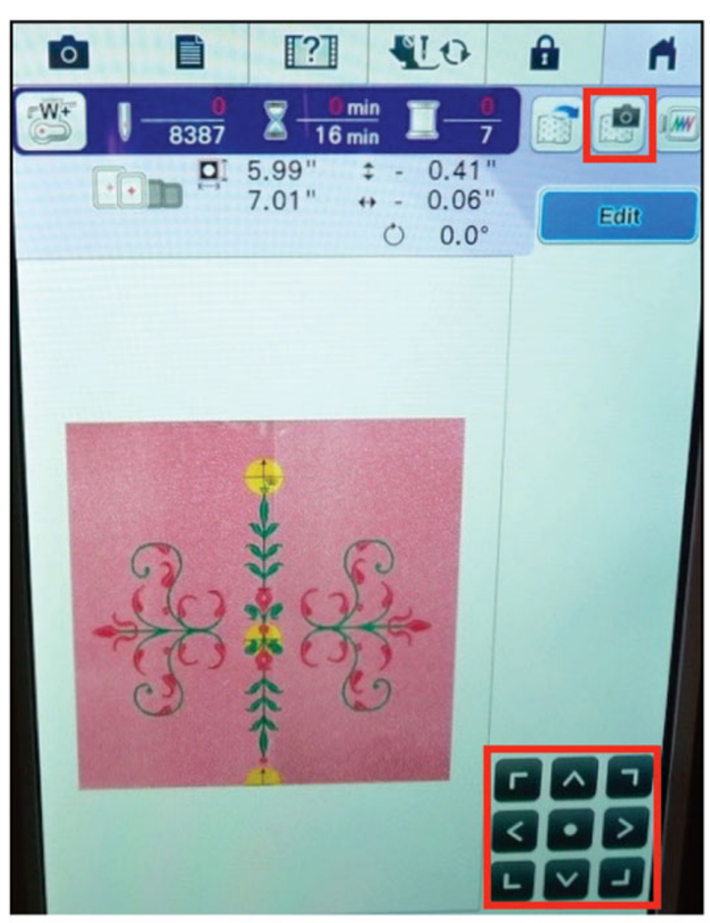
Embroider the next motif. Continue to align and stitch the entire border of both strips using this method.

Note: Embroider enough motifs to fill most of the strip, leaving a few inches blank for placement at the waistline area of the pants. Set strips aside until you construct the pants.

Step 3. Embroider center section for camisole

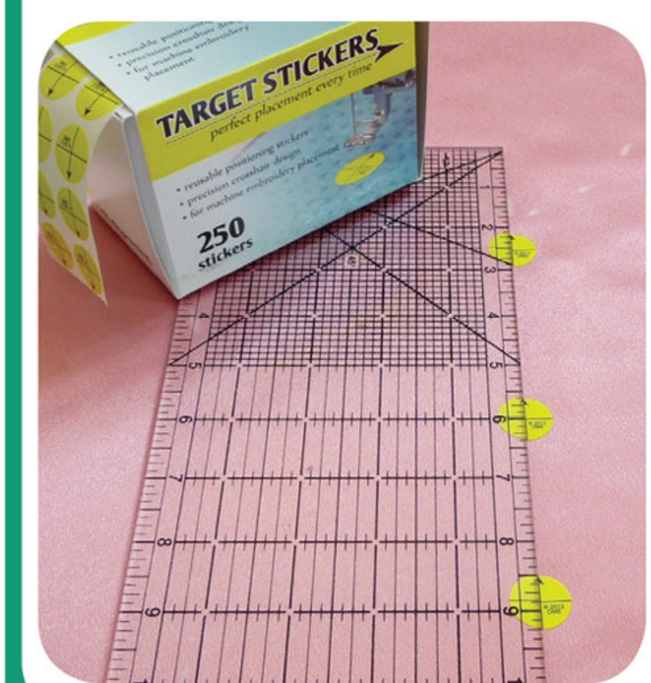
To embroider on the camisole begin by creating a combination design for the 8" hoop using motif 09_01 in the center with 09_02 on one side and a mirror image of 09_02 on the opposite side. Make certain the grouping fits in the upper neck area of the center section. Hoop fabric with mesh stabilizer, aligning fabric so the design is located in the area just below neckline seam. Touch the camera icon to scan the fabric and then move as necessary to precisely align the design below seamline.





Joanne's Tip

Self-dispensing DIME Target Stickers are perfect for temporarily marking fabric when you want to avoid chalk or ink. I like to use a ruler to align additional markers and create a continuous center line for reference when hooping.

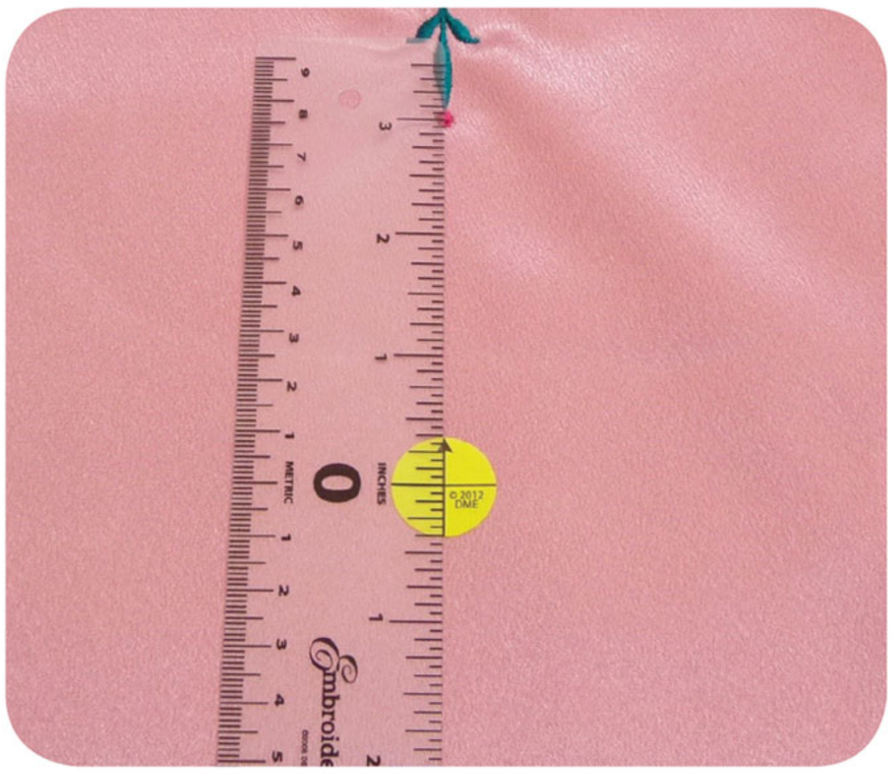


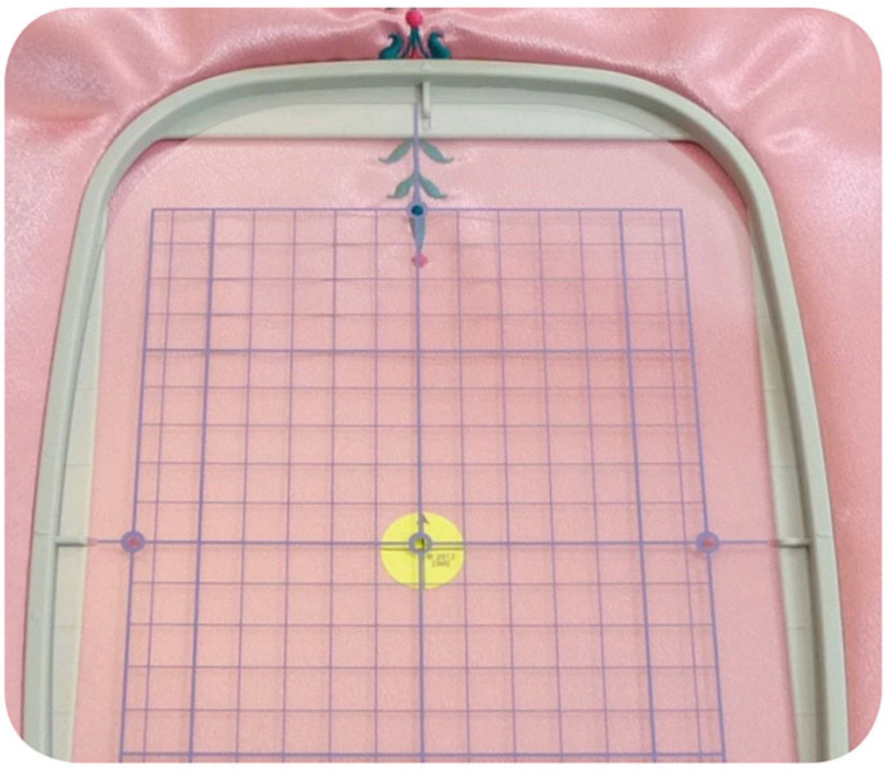
Embroider combination design.

Use the 5" x 7" hoop to embroider two additional center motifs in line with the design on the front piece. You can use target stickers and the scan feature for alignment.

Joanne's Tip

In my book, Wrapped in Embroidery, I outline three simple methods for continuous embroidery. These methods work for virtually any embroidery machine. However, the addition of the scanning option and the LED pointer enhance all of these methods. Learn to use all the tools in your toolbox for easier, more enjoyable embroidery!





Step 4. Finish top and pants

Cut pants from fabric #1, making sure the side seams are cut straight. Sew side seams of pants. Pin a strip along each seam, centering it over the seamline. Sew strips in place, positioning the last motif just above the hemline, trimming excess at each end so it is even with the raw edge of pant top and bottom.

Joanne's Tip

To easily stitch strips I opted to pin first and loosely hand baste to hold them in place. Then, I used the MuVit™ digital dual feed foot along with the Sew Straight™ laser guide for smooth and even topstitching.

Finish pants according to pattern instructions.

Trim excess stabilizer and fuse interfacing over embroidery on center piece. Cut center section, placing modified pattern over the embroidered fabric matching the center marks and neckline seam.

Cut remaining camisole pieces from fabric #1. Sew camisole following pattern instructions. You are finished! Enjoy your pretty pajama set!

Step 5. Embroider lingerie bag

Butterick #5963 includes a drawstring lingerie bag pattern. Using additional yardage from fabric #1, I embroidered a built-in monogram, combined with motif 09_02 rotated and mirror imaged as a monogram accent.

This completes the set and makes a wonderful gift package.

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Blue Bird on a Branch

By Diane Kron, *Software and Embroidery Projects Manager for Designer's Gallery*

Spread your wings and come fly with me while we create this wall-hanging using the built-in designs from the Baby Lock® Destiny sewing and embroidery machine.

Embroidery Products

Baby Lock® Destiny™ sewing and embroidery machine with built-in bird and leaf designs

Materials

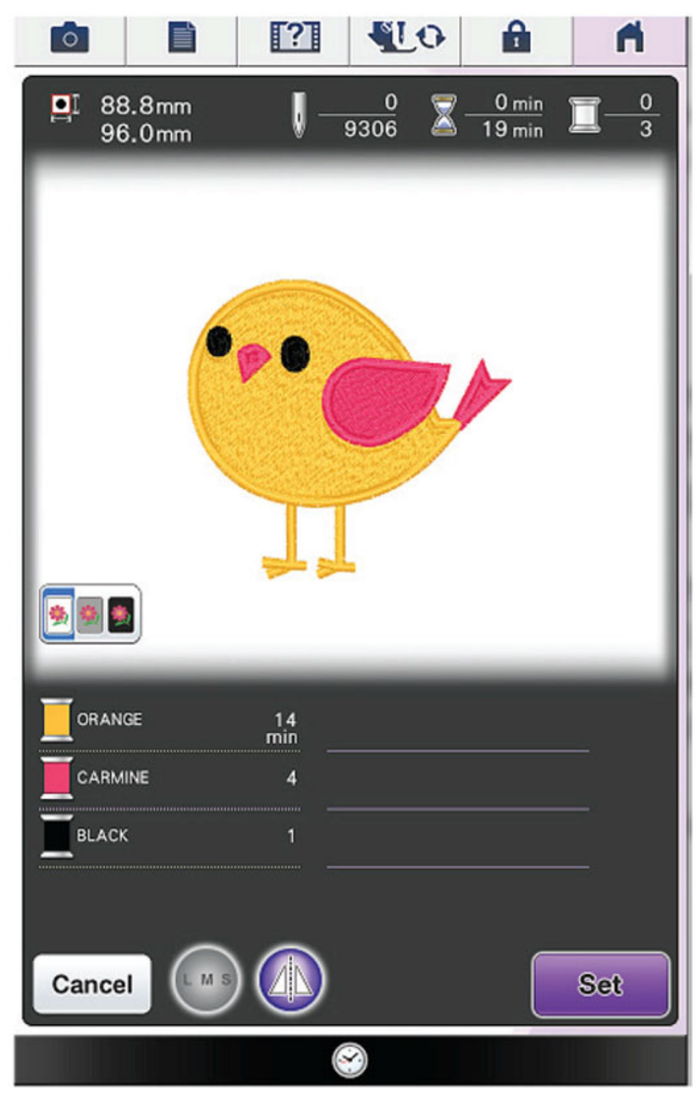
1 yd. white canvas for embroidery
3 fat quarters for the appliquéd leaves
Variegated yarn for couching
One 16" x 20" framed canvas
Tear-Away Soft stabilizer from Baby Lock
Cut-Away Fusible Appliqué from Baby Lock
Madeira embroidery thread
Digital Dual Feed Attachment
Yarn Guide
Couching Dual Feed Foot
Frixion marking pen
Temporary spray adhesive

Prep the Materials

From the white canvas, cut a section 24" x 20". Fuse the Cut-Away Fusible Appliqué stabilizer to the wrong side of each fat quarter. On the front of the white canvas section, draw the tree branch as shown in the project picture. If a mistake is made while drawing, the ink can be easily removed by ironing the area. Determine the placement of the bird and the leaves.

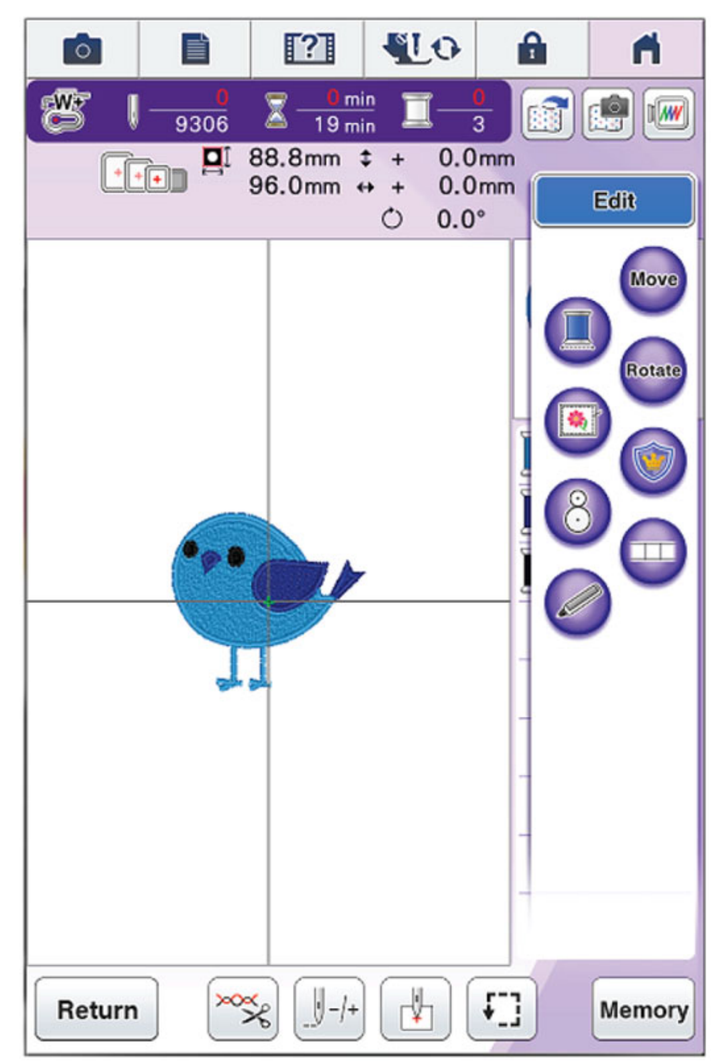
Embroider

Hoop the Tear-Away stabilizer in the 240mm x 360mm hoop. Lightly spray the stabilizer with the temporary spray adhesive. Place the white canvas section, where the bird will be embroidered, over the hoop and finger press to secure. Place the hoop on the embroidery unit. Retrieve the bird design from the Exclusive Kids Corner category. Click on Set.

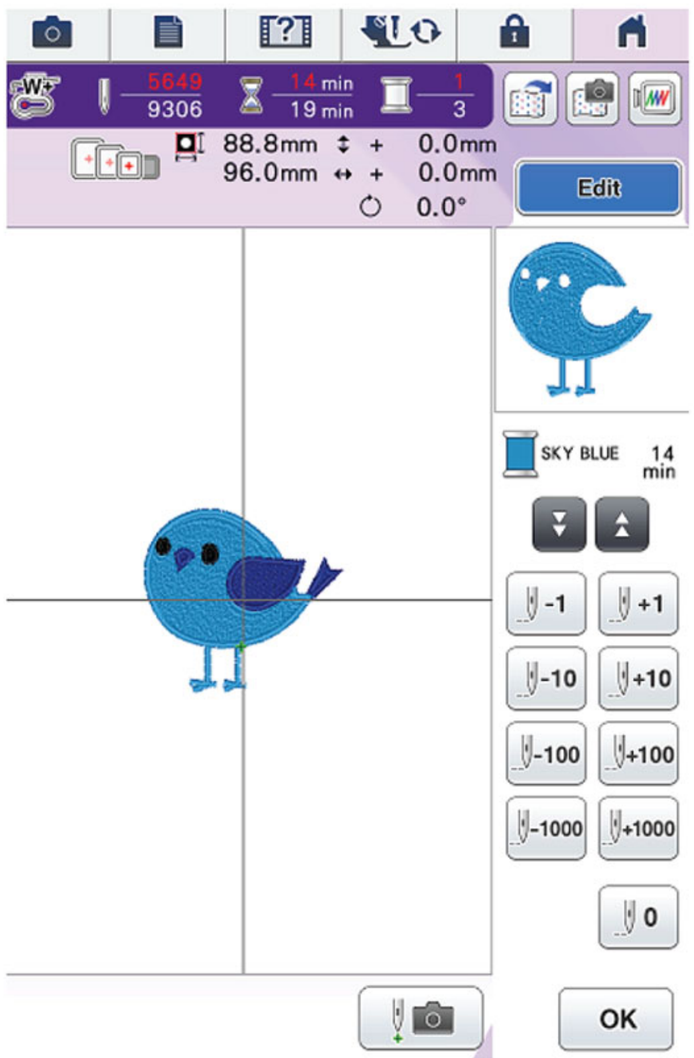


To change the colors in the design, select the individual color chips and select a new color from the list. Repeat for all areas as desired. Click Ok. Click on Embroidery.

On the embroidery screen, click on the Edit button. Next, click on the Camera icon and follow the prompts to scan the branch inside the frame. Click on Move to position the bird design so that the bird's body is sitting on the branch. The feet will sit below the branch and will not be embroidered.



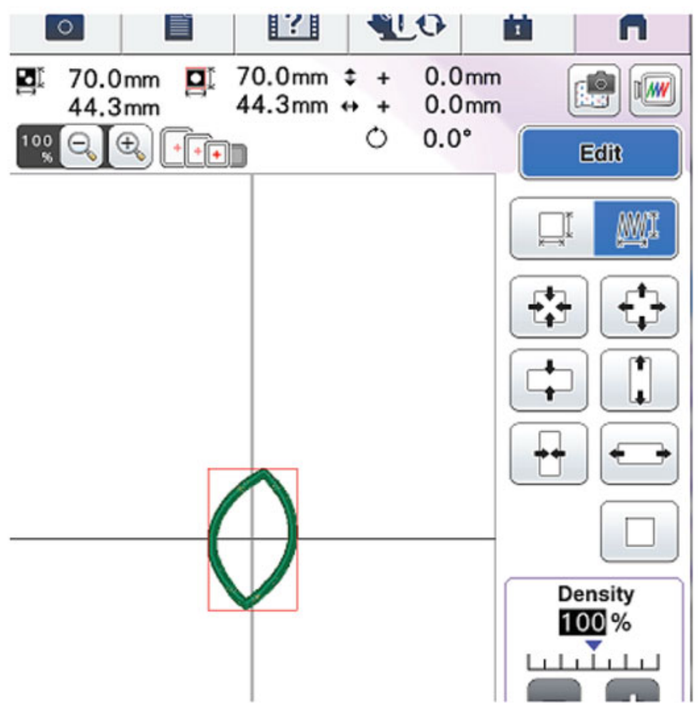
Thread the machine and embroider the first color. When the machine gets to stitch number 5260, stop and cut the thread. (These are the beginning stitches of the bird's legs and feet.) Click on the +100 and or the +10 button to advance through the stitches. Stop when reaching stitch number 5648. Touch the Start button and complete the design, changing thread colors as required.



Click on the Home key. Retrieve the leaf design from the Exclusive Kids Corner category. Click on Set.

To resize the design, click on the Size key. Click on the highlighted blue icon.

This icon will size the design while maintaining the original stitch density. To increase the size of the design, click on the icon with the arrows pointing outward. Each click will increase the size. Size the leaf to 70mm tall. Re-hoop as needed. To position the leaves for embroidery, use the camera function to scan the fabric. Move and rotate the design so that the leaves are positioned properly. Click on Embroidery and follow the thread stops for placement. Place one of the fat quarter fabrics over the stitch line and stitch the tack-down. After the machine stops, trim the appliqué fabric close to the stitched line. Start the machine to finish with the satin stitch. Repeat this step until all of the leaves are embroidered.

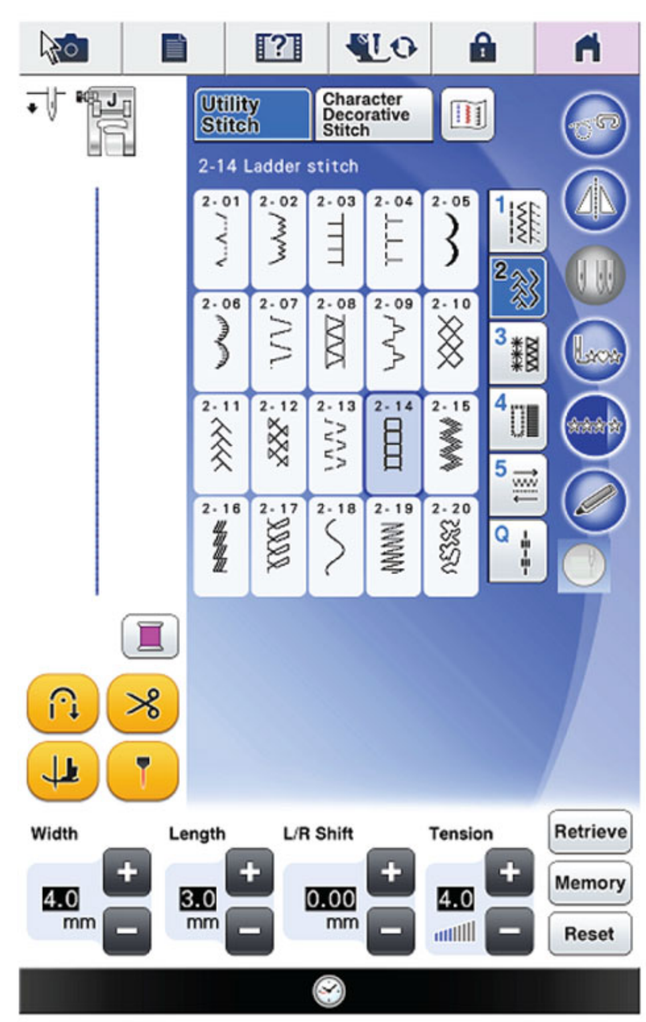


Remove the embroidered section from the hoop.

Set the machine up for couching. Attach the Dual Feed Attachment, the Couching Dual Feed Foot and the Yarn Guide. Place the yarn on the top spool stand, thread the yarn through the guide and hole in the Couching Dual Feed foot. Thread the machine with a coordinating thread. Select the ladder stitch.

Diane's Tip

Sew a test to verify the stitch settings. If an adjustment is needed, adjust the Width and Length before proceeding. Pull approximately 18" of yarn to the backside of the presser foot. Place the embroidered section under the presser foot with the marked line on the branch centered under the foot. Slowly couch the first branch section. End the line at the leaves. Select the backspace button to secure the stitches and cut the thread. Repeat for the remaining branches.



Press the section flat. Center the picture over the framed canvas and pull the fabric to the backside. Staple in place.

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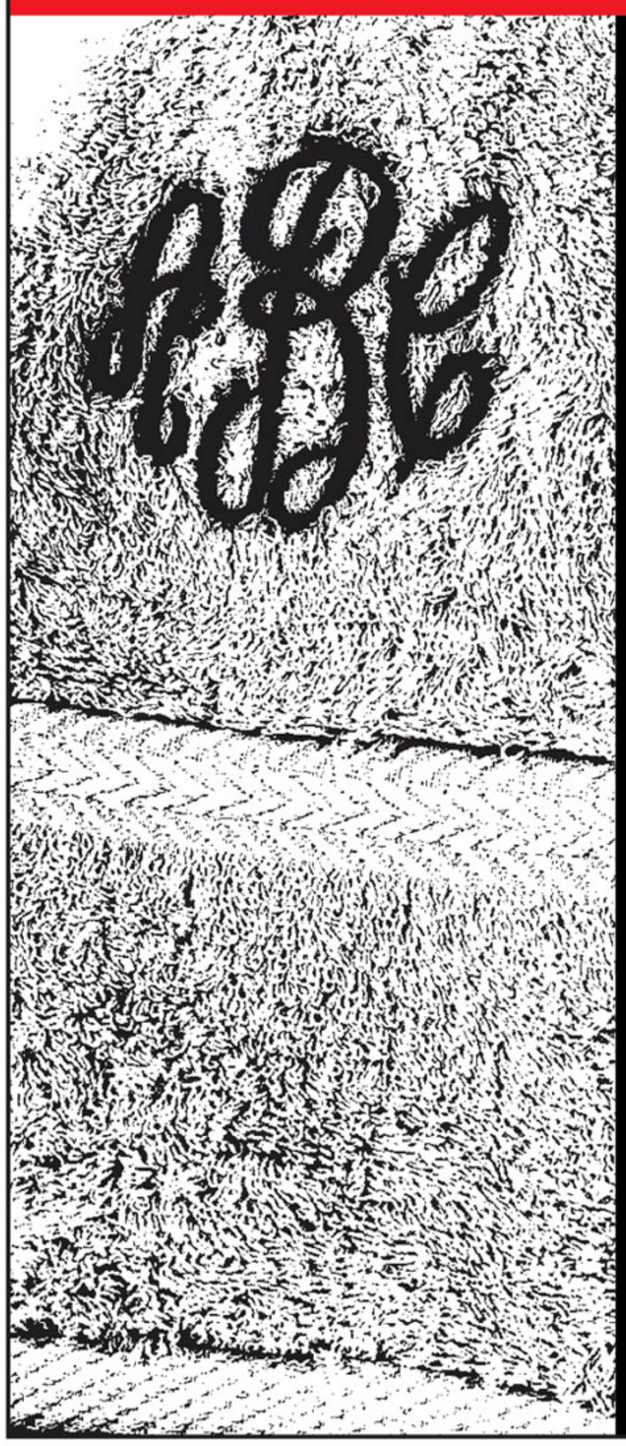
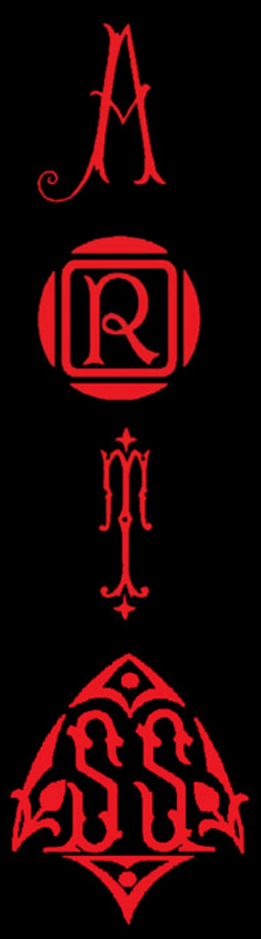
www.embroideryarts.com

Monogram Designs for Embroidery Machines Since 1996





Over 200 historical monogram styles inspired by designs from the Renaissance through the present.

Prayer Flags

By Debbie Henry

Rooted in Tibet thousands of years ago, prayer flags are increasingly popular. The tradition produced flags that, when hung, spread their good intentions with the wind—love, health, gratitude, kindness.

In honor of all ovarian cancer warriors, survivors, and supporters, these projects can be customized and include some easy no-sew fusing techniques. Better yet, see how to convert a linen embroidery blank into a lovely scalloped bunting and spread your good wishes to the winds!

Embroidery Products

Embroidery Library designs, www.emblibrary.com :
- "Always Believe Something Wonderful" (K2442)
- "Always Something to Be Thankful For" (K2406)
- "Awareness Ribbon Tree" (D8127)
- "Buzzing Bees and Blossoms Square" (D4829)

Embroidery Online designs, www.embroideryonline.com :
- "Purple Tulip & Butterfly" (NA894_48)
- "Single Rose" (NA892_48)
- "Bluebird & Flower" (NA897_48)

Calligraphy Project Designer www.dzgns.com or your local sewing machine retailer

Editing software of choice

Materials

5/8 yd. ivory felt
¾ yd. teal cotton fabric
4 yd. of ½" coordinating rickrack
Linen bun warmer from Embroider This! (03-62919)
1 ¼ yd. leather deerskin lace, 1/8"
1 yd. ¼" satin ribbon
Crisp tear-away stabilizer
Mesh cut-away stabilizer
¼" wide Lite Steam-A-Seam 2
505 Spray and Fix temporary spray adhesive
Schmetz Microtex Sharp 80/12 needle
40 wt. Sulky embroidery thread
Sulky bobbin thread
Matching sewing thread
Embellishments: buttons, charms, beads
Scissors, rotary cutter, ruler, and cutting/pressing mat

FELT AND FABRIC FLAGS

Step 1. At the Computer

Open "Always Believe Something Wonderful" (K2442) in editing software.

Remove the flowers but leave their stems. Save the new design as "Wonderful Edited."

Open "Always Something to Be Thankful For" (K2406).

Remove the flowers, stems, and the three red hearts in a row. Save the new design as "Thankful Edited."

Step 2. Preparation

Cut three 12" x 16" pieces of good quality felt.

TIP: Cutting embroidered pieces larger than necessary allows you to trim the piece to size rather than relying totally on exact hooping.

Cut three fabric backs 9" x 13.5".

Cut six fabric band pieces 13" x 4". Fold one long edge over 3/8", wrong sides together, and press. Cut a piece of ¼" Lite Steam-A-Seam 2 the width of the band and finger-press it along the underside of the folded edge. Press in place and remove the paper strip. Do the same for the other five bands.

Cut six pieces of rickrack the same width as the bands and 12 pieces of Lite Steam-A-Seam 2, ¼" wide, the same width as the bands.

Step 3. Embroidery

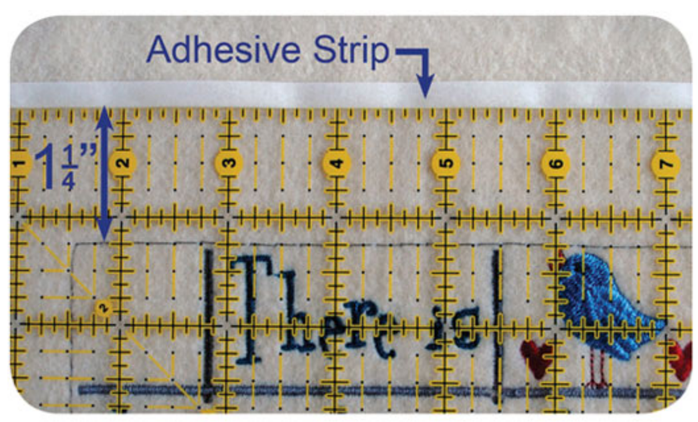
Hoop mesh cut-away stabilizer. Spray the back of felt with adhesive and center it on the stabilizer. Finger-press it in place. TIP: NEVER spray in the hoop. Instead, spray the back of the item you are securing to the stabilizer.

Always begin embroidery by pulling the bobbin thread to the top and run a basting stitch to secure the base fabric and stabilizer.

Stitch out "Wonderful Edited," "Thankful Edited," and "Awareness Ribbon Tree" designs. When finished, remove each of them from the hoop and leave the stabilizer attached.

Step 4. Construction

Cut embroidered felt and stabilizer to 9" x 13.5". Use the basting stitches as alignment lines when centering designs and trimming base fabrics to size.



Measure 1 ¼" above the top basting line. With the ruler in place, finger press a strip of Lite Steam-A-Seam 2 in place. It stays in place until fused with an iron.

Do the same below the basting line. Fuse and remove paper lining.

Cut rickrack slightly wider than the felt. Finger-press it in place, centered over the fusible strips.

Measure the distance between the basting line and rickrack peaks and adjust, if necessary, before ironing in place. Do the same below the lower basting line.

Place the fusible, folded edge of the bands along the rickrack, lining it up with the valleys. Iron it in place.

Trim band sides and bottoms to match up with the felt edges.

Step 5. Finishing

Add beads, buttons, and charms. Stitch black seed beads for birds' eyes and flower buttons on the embroidered stems. Place a drop of glue on the knots on the back to secure.

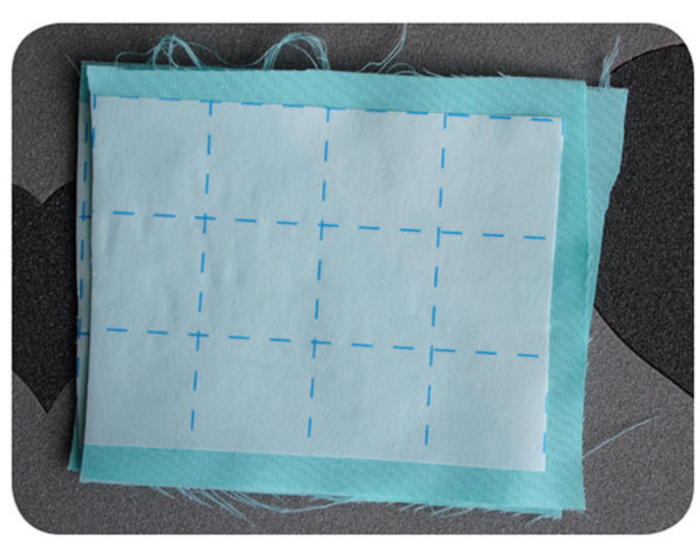
Remove basting stitches and lightly steam to remove stitch marks.

Cut three pieces of leather lacing 18" long. Pin one edge perpendicular to the top edge of the top band. Loop it around to the other side so it lies on top of the embroidery.

Place the fabric back on top of the felt piece, right sides together. Stitch completely around the outside edge using a ¼" seam allowance and standard sewing thread. Clip corners.

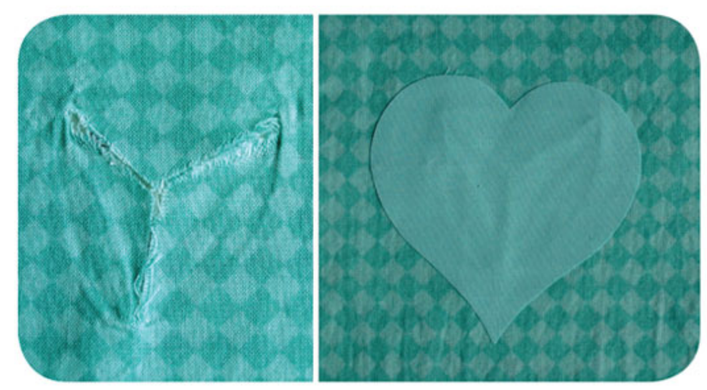
Near the center, pinch the backing fabric to separate it from the felt front. Carefully cut a "Y" shape. Use this opening to turn the flag right side out.

Seal it With a Heart



Fuse Lite Steam-A-Seam 2 to three 4" pieces of coordinating fabric.

Layer fused pieces over the middle heart of the AccuQuilt GO! 2", 3", 4" Heart die and run them through the machine creating three fusible hearts.

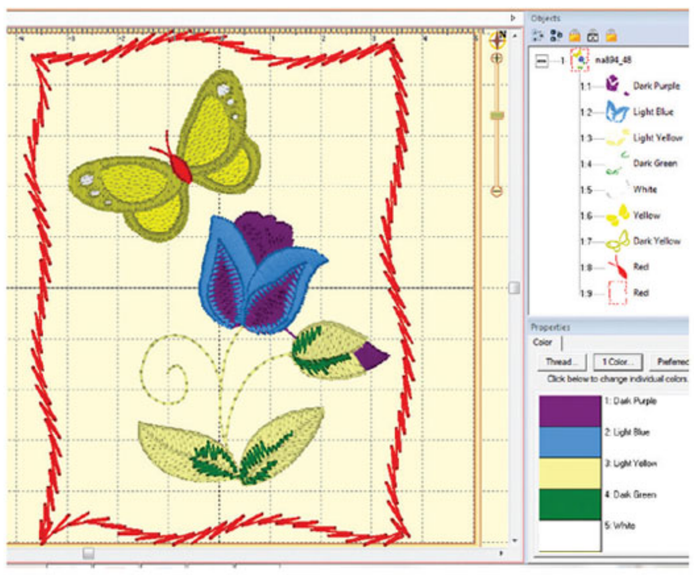


Iron the backing smooth and re-align the cut fabric. Peel the paper backing from a fusible heart and finger-press it over the cut like a bandage. Iron it in place. Do the same for the other two and they are ready to hang!

If you do not want to construct the flags, a simple linen bun warmer easily stitches up into a lovely flag bunting.

Easy Scalloped Linen Bunting

Step 1. At the Computer

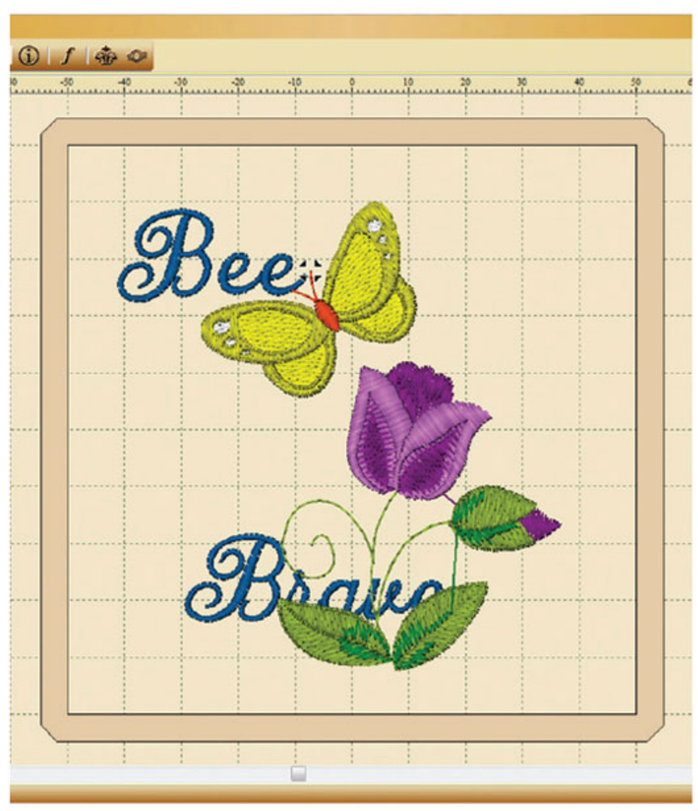


These designs include a frame that is not used for this project. You can either skip that color sequence completely or open the design in an embroidery editing program and delete the frame layer.

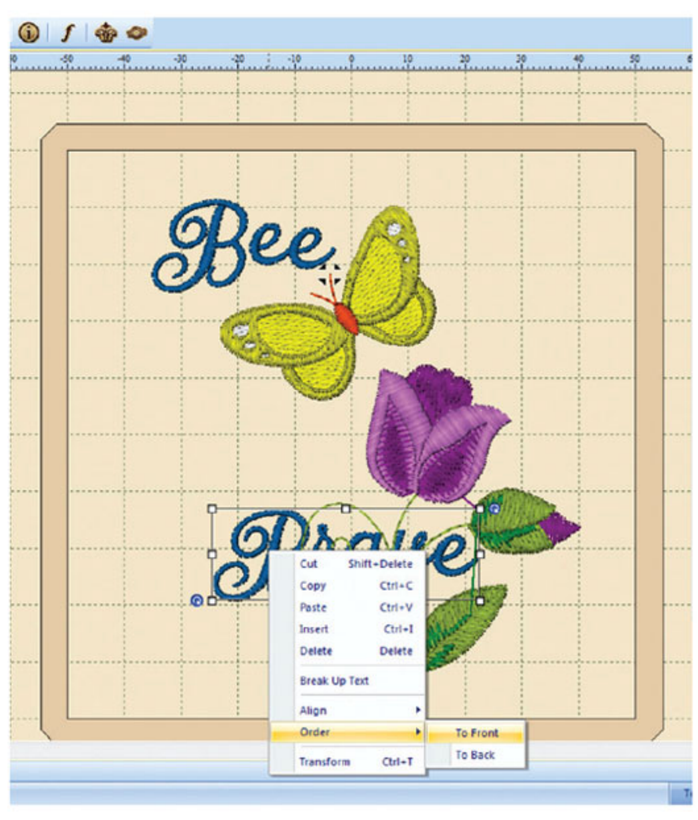
Open "Buzzing Bees and Blossoms Square," delete a bee and save the file as "Bee."

Open Calligraphy Project Designer (CPD). Use 3D view.

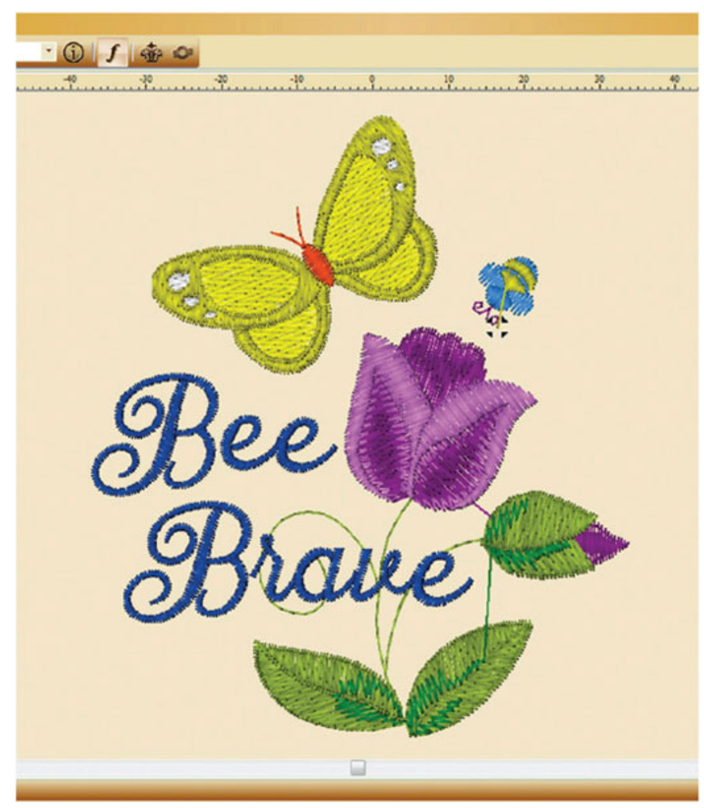
Click on the font icon and click in the work area. From the drop-down menu, choose the Diana-Vs font. Click in the text area and type "Bee," choose a height of 15 mm, and click apply. Repeat this process and type the word "Brave."



Open the design "Purple Tulip & Butterfly" (NA894_48) in CPD. Using the selection tool, click on the design to choose it, copy it, and paste it into the "Bee Brave" text design window.

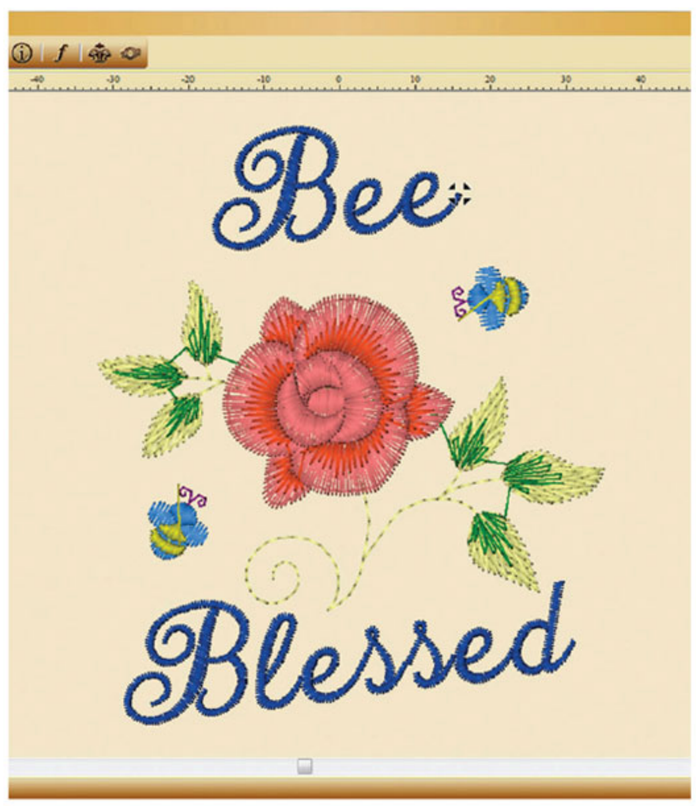


Right click on the "Brave" text, select "Order," and then click "To Front." That places the image in the background and the text in front. Move the text to the desired locations.



Open "Bee" in a new file, copy and paste it above the flower, rotating it as desired. When finished, save the design as "Bee Brave."

Add "Bee Strong" text and a single bee to NA897_48. Save the file as "Bee Strong."



Add "Bee Blessed" text and two bees to NA892_48. Save it as "Bee Blessed."

Step 2. Preparation

Cut each of the four flaps off of the scalloped linen bun warmer. Three were used for this project.

Create cuffs for each of the mini-flags. Cut fabric 8 ½" x 3". Fold in all four sides ¼" to the wrong side. Apply a strip of Lite Steam-A-Seam 2 to the edges close to the fold and fuse in place. Remove the paper strips.

Cut three pieces of rickrack 8 ½" wide. Apply a strip of Lite Steam-A-Seam 2 along the center of the rickrack. Fuse and remove the paper.

Step 3. Embroidery

Hoop crisp, tear-away stabilizer. Cut a piece of crisp tear-away stabilizer to float under the hoop. Spray the back of it with adhesive and gently press it in place on the back of the hooped stabilizer.

Spray the back of the linen flag with spray adhesive and finger-press it in place on the hooped stabilizer. Run a basting stitch.

Stitch out each of the three linen flags and remove excess stabilizer on the backs of each when finished.

Step 4. Construction

Cut off the edge of the linen flap just below the top Swiss dot. Press the rickrack to the linen, centering it over the next Swiss dot. Fuse in place.

Clip the rickrack at the edge of the linen. Add glue to seal the edges. Press one long edge of the band to the rickrack, lining the fabric edge up with the valleys. Fuse in place.

Fold the band around so that there is equal fabric on the back, lining up side edges.

Fuse in place. All raw edges are enclosed.

Butt band edges together and attach, stitching a button at the overlap. To hang, loop an 18" piece of ribbon for either side and secure it to the end bands under a button.

Finished Size: 60.5" x 71.5"

celebrate every moment

By Sarah Vedeler

Take your machine embroidered appliqué to new levels with this stunning quilt. Quilted in the hoop blocks create stunning texture. Learn how to join the blocks so that they are finished on the front and back simultaneously - all by machine with no hand stitching required.

Embroidery Products

Express Yourself Design Collection by Sarah Vedeler Designs

For free download including cancer ribbon designs, thread color charts and appliqué cutting info go to http://celebrate.sarahvedelerdesigns.com/. The download also includes instructions on how to use standalone embroidered appliqué letters to create a quilt that is finished with free motion quilting.

To access download, use password "DIME94"

Materials

Fabrics: Fairy Frost by Michael Miller Fabrics

White:	3.75 yards
Turquoise:	1.25 yards
Lagoon:	2.25 yards (includes 1.25 yards for back sashing)
Isle:	1 yard
Mermaid:	1 yard
Raspberry:	0.75 yards

Clementine, Periwinkle, Caribbean, Luna, Avocado: generous 0.5 yards of each

Includes backing but not binding.

Batting: Quilter's Dream Orient or similar low loft batting:
Twin size Cut 121 pieces, 6" x 7"

Stabilizer: OESD Polymesh Cutaway

Needles: Superior Titanium Top Stitch 80/12

Notions: Fusible Webbing (Shades Softfuse or Lite Heat N Bond)

Thread: AURIfil Cotton Mako 50 weight

Step 1. Preparation

White: Cut 9 pieces, WOF x 7"
From each piece, cut 6 pieces, 6" x 7" Center block backgrounds

Cut 16 pieces, 1" x remaining length of fabric Front sashing

From the remaining piece, cut 9 pieces, RWOF x 7"
From each piece, cut 3 pieces, 6" x 7" Center block backgrounds

Turquoise: Cut 4 pieces, WOF x 7"
From each piece, cut 5 pieces, 6" x 7" Border block backgrounds

Lagoon, Isle: Cut 2 pieces, WOF x 7"
From each piece, cut 5 pieces, 6" x 7" Border block backgrounds

Lagoon: Cut 34 pieces, WOF x 1.125”
Fold in 1/4” on one long side of all 34 pieces Back sashing

Mermaid: Cut 1 piece, WOF x 6.5”: cut 20 pieces, 1” x 6.5” Border vertical sashing
Trim remainder to 5.5”: cut 16 pieces, 1” x 5.5” Border horizontal sashing

Cut 6 pieces, WOF x 1”
Create 2 lengths with 3 pieces each
From each length, cut 1 piece, 1” x 58.5” and 1 piece, 1” x 60.5” Border side, top, bottom

Turquoise, Lagoon, Isle, Mermaid, Raspberry, Clementine, Periwinkle, Caribbean, Luna, Avocado:
Cut 2 pieces, WOF x 6.5”
From each piece, cut 6 pieces, 5.5” x 6.5” Backing blocks
Cut 1 extra piece, 5.5” x 6.5” for a total of 121 pieces.

Cut 1 piece, WOF x 5”, back with fusible webbing Appliqué shapes
Refer to appliqué cutting info in free download for how to cut appliqué shapes

Raspberry: Cut 1 piece, WOF x 5” , back with fusible webbing Appliqué shapes

Step 2. Embroidery

Nothing needs to be done to the embroidery designs - they are all ready to use! Create the blocks specified in the diagram below.

Go to http://celebrate.sarahvedelerdesigns.com/ for a video tutorial on how to stitch a block.

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0	BG1-Ribbon Isle	BG2-q Turq	BG3-q Lagoon	BG1-q4Hearts Turq	BG2-q Isle	BG3-q Turq	BG2-qDiamon Lagoon	BG1-q Turq	BG3-q Isle	BG2-q1Heart Turq	BG1-q Lagoon
1	BG1-q Turq	BG2-C Raspberry	BG3-E2 Raspberry	BG1-L Raspberry	BG2-E3 Raspberry	BG3-B Raspberry	BG2-R Raspberry	BG1-A Raspberry	BG3-T Raspberry	BG2-E1 Raspberry	BG1-q1Heart Turq
2	BG1-q Lagoon	BG2-E3 Caribbean	BG3-V Periwinkle	BG1-E1 Luna	BG2-R Avocado	BG3-Y Mermaid	BG2-q	BG1-q	BG3-q	BG2-q	BG1-q Isle
3	BG1-q4Heart Turq	BG2-q	BG3-q	BG1-q	BG2-M Caribbean	BG3-O1 Avocado	BG2-M Periwinkle	BG1-E2 Mermaid	BG3-N Luna	BG2-T Avocado	BG1-q Turq
4	BG1-q Isle	BG2-E1 Avocado	BG3-V Luna	BG1-E2 Mermaid	BG2-R Periwinkle	BG3-Y Caribbean	BG2-q	BG1-q	BG3-q	BG2-q	BG1-qDiamon Lagoon
5	BG1-q Turq	BG2-q	BG3-q	BG1-q	BG2-q	BG3-q	BG2-H Mermaid	BG1-O2 Caribbean	BG3-U Periwinkle	BG2-R Luna	BG1-q Turq
6	BG1-qDiamon Lagoon	BG2-E2 Periwinkle	BG3-V Mermaid	BG1-E1 Caribbean	BG2-R Luna	BG3-Y Avocado	BG2-q	BG1-q	BG3-q	BG2-q	BG1-q Isle
7	BG1-q Turq	BG2-q	BG3-q	BG1-q	BG2-q	BG3-q	BG2-q	BG1-D Mermaid	BG3-A Caribbean	BG2-Y Periwinkle	BG1-q4Hearts Turq
8	BG1-q Isle	BG2-A Luna	BG3-N Avocado	BG1-D Periwinkle	BG2-q	BG3-q	BG2-T Caribbean	BG1-H Avocado	BG3-E Luna	BG2-N Mermaid	BG1-q Lagoon
9	BG1-q1Heart Turq	BG2-D Raspberry	BG3-O2 Raspberry	BG1-I Clementine	BG2-T Clementine	BG3-A Raspberry	BG2-G Raspberry	BG1-A Raspberry	BG3-I Raspberry	BG2-N Raspberry	BG1-q Turq
10	BG1-q Lagoon	BG2-q1Heart Turq	BG3-q Isle	BG1-q Turq	BG2-qDiamon Lagoon	BG3-q Turq	BG2-q Isle	BG1-q4Heart Turq	BG3-q Lagoon	BG2-q Turq	BG1-Ribbon Isle

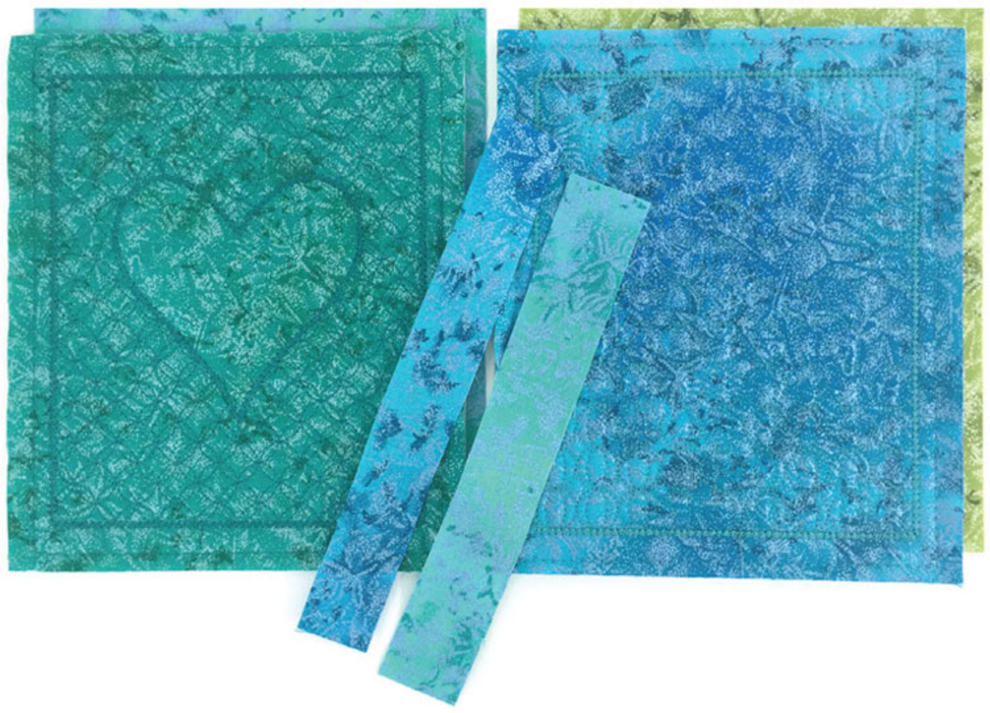
Step 3. Construction

Trim each block to 5.5” x 6.5”.

Lay the embroidered blocks out as shown on page 46.

Lay the backing blocks in a pleasing design over the embroidered blocks.

To join two blocks together with sashing (left block + right block):

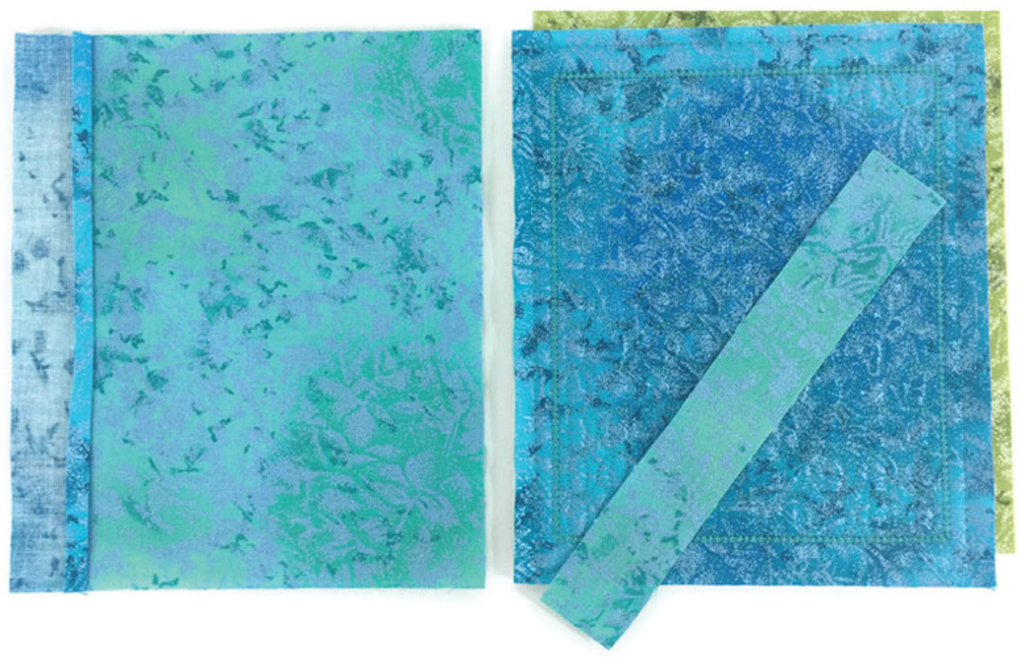


Place the left embroidered block right side down.

Center the corresponding backing block over the embroidered block, right side up.

Cut a piece of back sashing and front sashing the height of the block.

Place the raw edge of the back sashing so that it is aligned with the left edge of the block, right side down. Pin all three layers together.



Turn over so that the embroidered block is right side up.

Place the front sashing so that it is aligned with the right edge of the embroidered block, right side down.

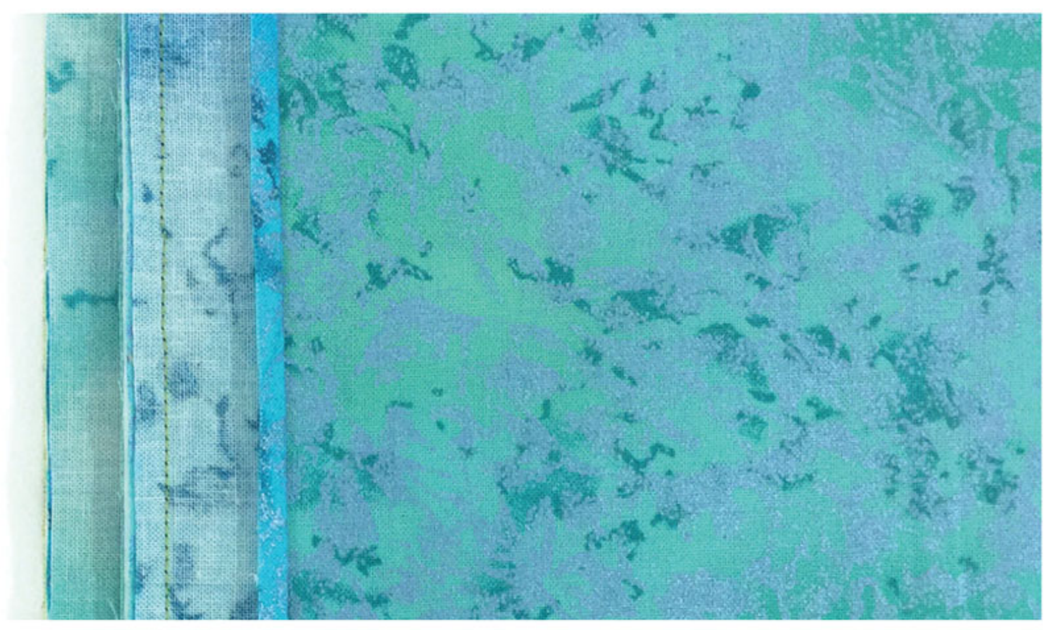
Pin all four layers together. Stitch through all four layers with a scant 1/4" seam.

Finger press the front sashing open.

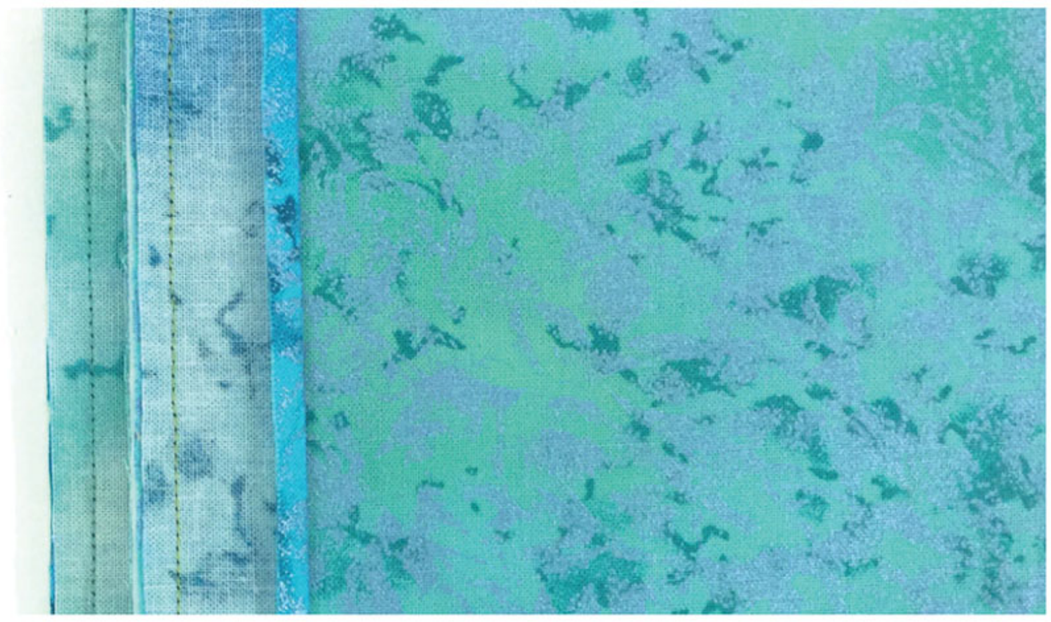
Place the right backing block right side down.

Center the corresponding embroidered block over the backing block, right side up.

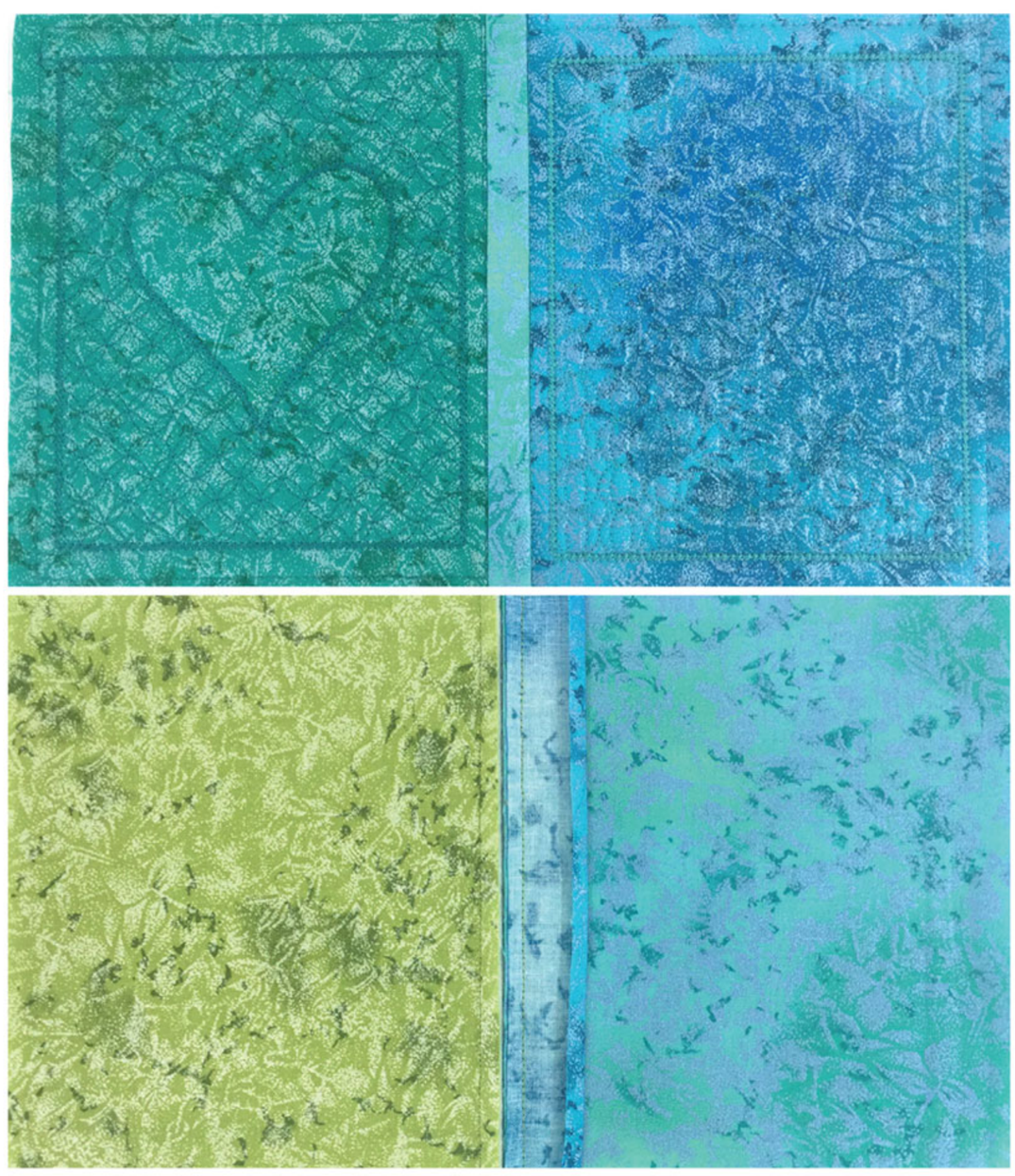
Align the left block right side down over the right block, so that the edge of the front sashing is aligned with the left side of the right block.



Pin the blocks together. Stitch with a scant 1/4" seam.

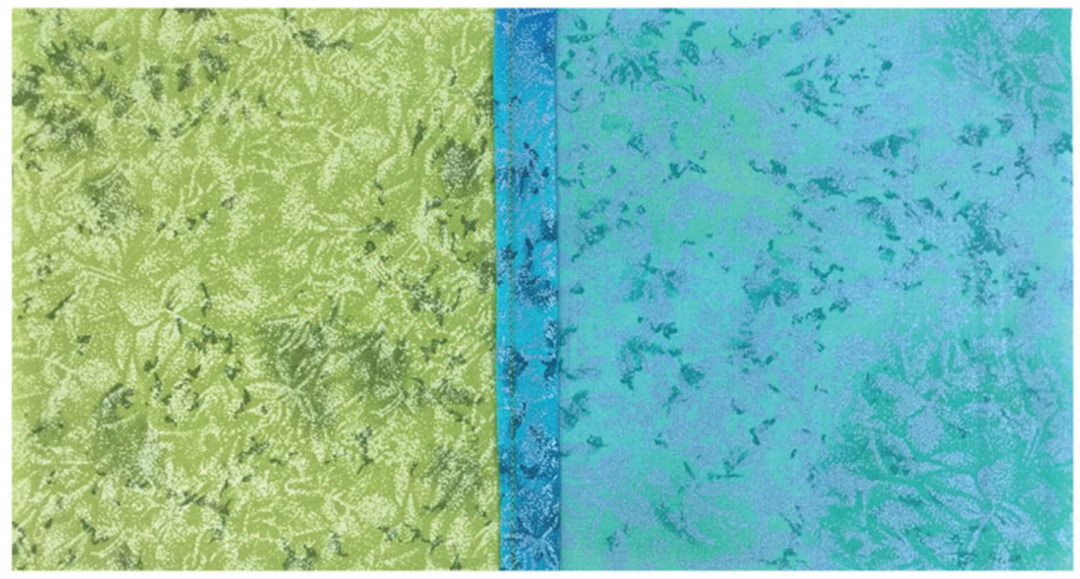


Finger press the front sashing open.



Finger press the back sashing open.

From the front, top stitch in the ditch on the right side of the front sashing to secure the back sashing in place.



If joining a top block with a bottom block, replace left with top and right with bottom in the instructions above.

For complete sashing and piecing instructions go to www.dzgns.com/Magazine/Current Issue

Get the Scoop on In the Hoop

In the Hoop projects. Yeah! Through my five years of teaching around the country, I have discovered that many embroiderers absolutely love In the Hoop Projects. I have taught a variety of different items such as: key fobs, business card holders, eye glass cases, ornaments, night light shades, elf shoes and gift bag tags. My students are amazed at the end result.

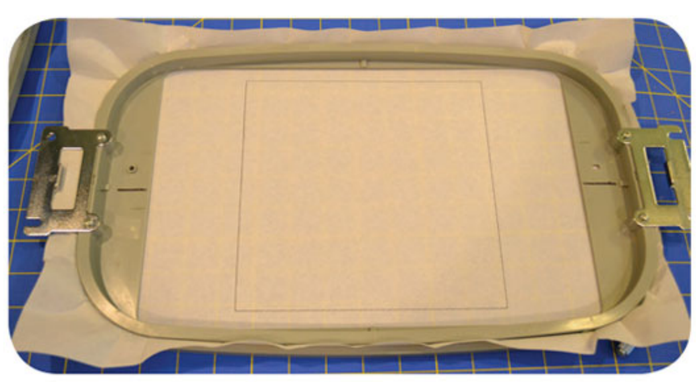
The snap tray designs are available in four sizes and multiple embroidery formats. Use interesting and coordinating fabrics to make a nesting set for a special gift or yourself.

The Snap Tray Design collection is a great value! It includes the embroidery designs in four sizes in multiple formats. Plus, there are PDF instructions with easy to follow photographs and a template for snap placement. All you need to do is dive in and have fun!

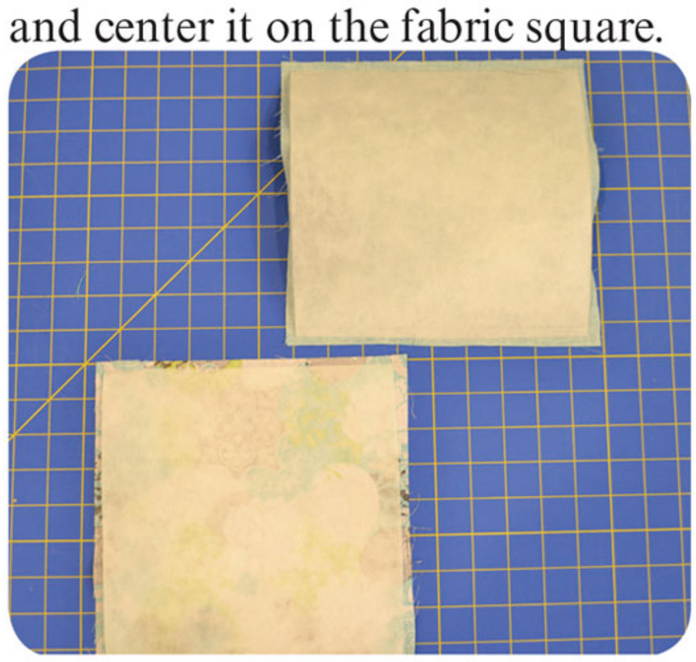
Embroidery Products

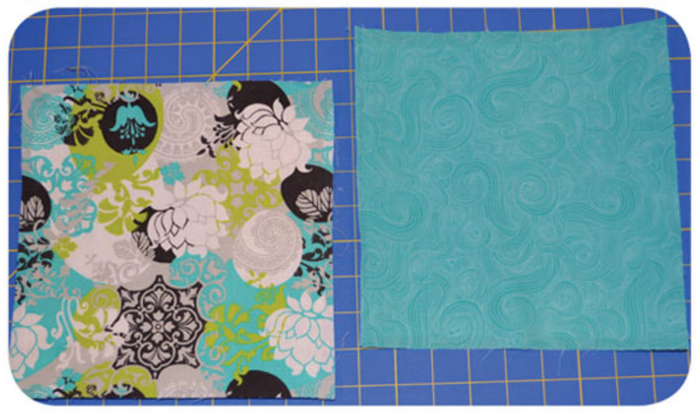
Snap Tray design
www.ZippyDesignZ.com
Two 7" squares of heavy craft stabilizer
Tear-away stabilizer
Two 7 ½" fabric squares (inside and outside of tray)
Four snap sets

Hoop the tear-away stabilizer in the appropriate size hoop for your desired snap tray. Stitch the first color, the placement guide.



Spray one side of the heavy stabilizer with temporary adhesive and center it on the fabric square.





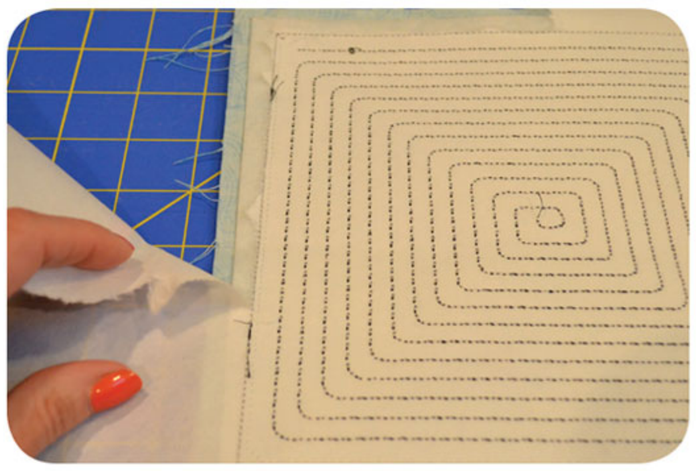
Place the fabric/stabilizer square, right side up, over the outline. Use tape to hold the fabric in place and stitch the second color, the tack down.

Stitch color 3, the quilt pattern. Remove the hoop from the machine and the fabric square from the stabilizer. Set aside.

Hoop a new piece of stabilizer, go back to the first color of the design and stitch the placement guide, add the stabilizer fabric square and stitch the tack down and quilting stitches.

Retrieve the previously stitched quilt block and place it, right side down, on the hooped square. Hold in place with tape or fabric glue.

Stitch the final color which attaches the two blocks and leaves a small unstitched section for turning. Remove from the hoop and trim the stabilizer.



Turn the blocks right side out and hand or machine stitch the small opening closed.

Continued on Page 73...

ONE SIZE FITS ALL BOOK COVER

By Sue Ann Obremski

Wouldn't it be nice to have an expandable cover for your book, notebook or e-reader? This one-size-fits-most cover features elastic thread at the binding to accommodate a variety of widths and the stretch fabric hugs the book. I always like to add something handmade to a store-bought gift and this does the trick.

Embroidery Products

Southwest Style 2, Southwest Design 3, available at John Deer's Adorable Ideas, www.ultimatestash.com
Mesh water soluble stabilizer (mesh type)

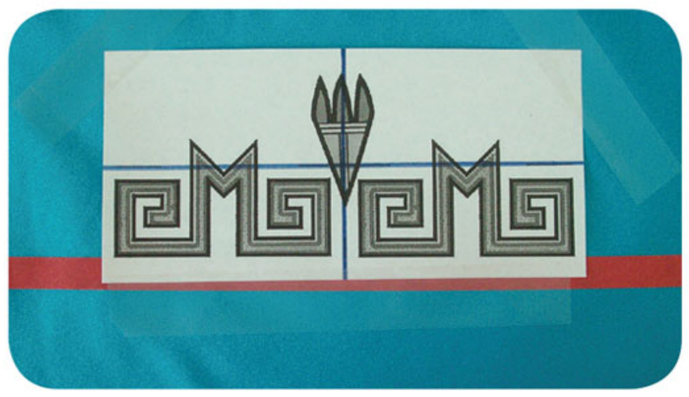
Materials

¼ yd. Lycra 4-way stretch (i.e. swimwear material)
Matching polyester thread
Elastic Thread
12 ¼" ribbon for bookmarker
Tear-away stabilizer

Embroidery

Open Southwest design 3 in your editing software program. Copy and paste the design. Position the two designs side by side. Print a template of the design. Save the file and send it to your embroidery machine.

Cut the Lycra 19" x 8". Measure 3" in on the 8" side and draw a line with a removable marker. Position the design so the outer edge of the design stitches on the 3" mark.

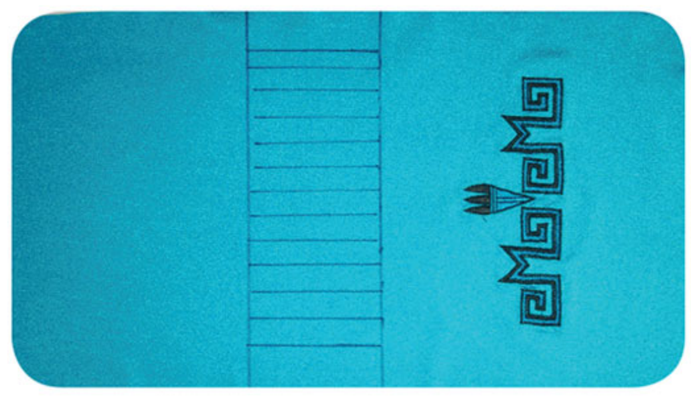


Sandwich the Lycra between two sheets of water soluble stabilizer. Hoop the sandwich.

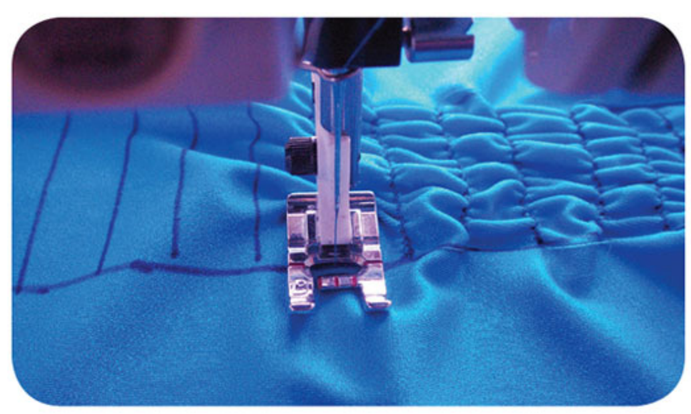
Stitch the design. When complete, remove the sandwich from the hoop and rinse away the stabilizer.

Spine

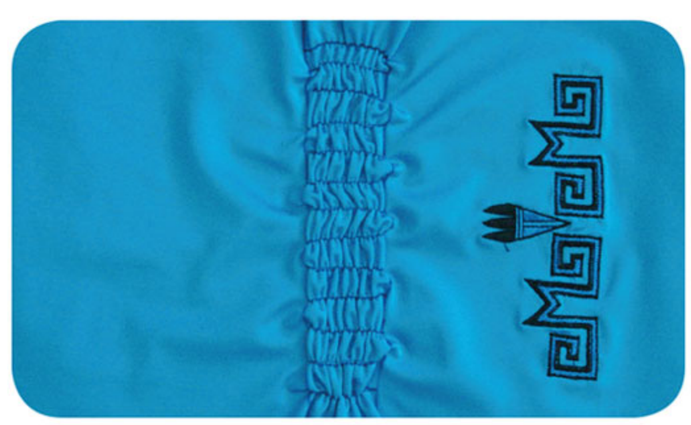
Measure 7 ½" from each side and draw a line from top to bottom. Starting at the top, measure ½" and draw horizontal lines (½" spacing) between the two vertical lines.



Wind a bobbin with elastic thread. Set the sewing machine for a straight stitch, stitch length 4.0. Sew on the horizontal lines. When you get to the end of the first row, do not cut the threads, lock the stitches, lift the pressure foot and move down to the next row and start stitching. Repeat for all rows.



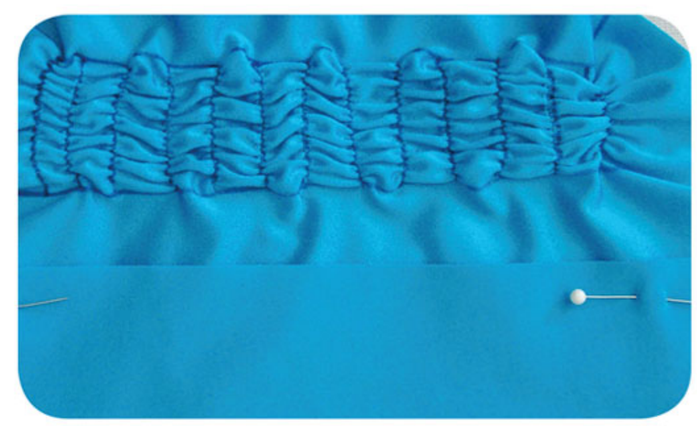
Note: the elastic bobbin stitches between the rows are not cut and kept continuous so the elastic thread stays locked in place. However, the sewing thread can be trimmed.



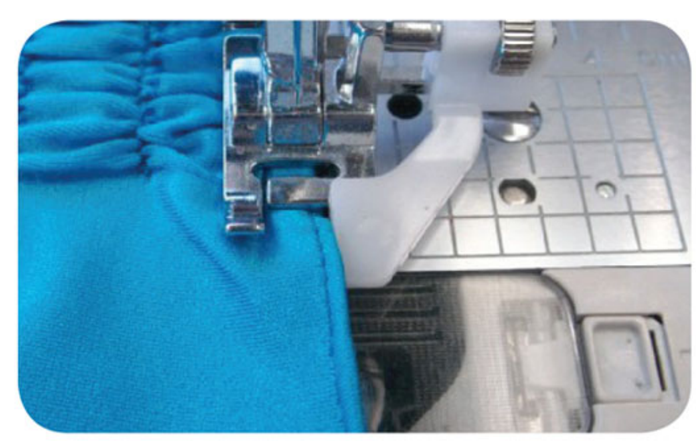
Once the spine is stitched, place the book cover, wrong side up and steam with an iron held over the elastic. Do not touch the elastic with the iron. When the steam is applied, you will see the elastic restore its original shape.

Flaps

Fold in 3" on the short ends, right sides together, pin. Sew a ½" seam at the top and bottom.



Turn right side out, press. Edgestitch along the top, sides and bottom. Do not top stitch the spine section as this will restrict the elastic to stretch.



Bookmarker: Tack the ribbon to the inside of the book cover at the top binding area. Now your cover is ready to be put over a book. Enjoy!

Teal Appeal Bag

By Kerrin Brookes

Embroidery Products

6D™ Premier Software or 6D™ Embroidery Extra Software and 6D™ Embroidery Software
Florabundance Collection by Seams Sew Special, www.sewspecial.com
Pfaff® creative grand dream hoop/ HUSQVARNA VIKING® DESIGNER™ Majestic Hoop
Pfaff® Creative Quilter's Hoop / Husqvarna Viking® Designer Quilter's Hoop Husqvarna Viking®
Pfaff® Creative Deluxe Hoop / Husqvarna Viking® Designer Royale Hoop
200 mm x 200 mm hoop or larger

Supplies

¼" foot
Top Stitch foot
1 ¼ yd. cotton fabric for the front and back of the bag
½ yd. cotton fabric for the lining
9" x 9" piece of organza
¾ yd. batting
Robison Anton Rayon 40 Embroidery thread 2521 Mallard Blue
Robison Anton Rayon 40 embroidery thread 2204 Turquoise
Robison Anton Rayon 40 embroidery thread 2342 Natural White
Inspira® Universal 80 needles and Inspira® Top Stitch 80 or 90 needles
Wash away marker
Inspira® Fusible No Show Mesh Stabilizer
Quilting ruler (24" long)
Mary Ellen's Best Press by Mary Ellen Products Inc.

At the Computer

Open 6D™ Embroidery Extra Software. Click on the Design Creator Icon. When the Wizard opens, click on Cancel. Click on the Preferences Icon and make the Grid size 10mm. Click on the Draw Tab. Click on the Change Hoop icon. Change the Group to Pfaff® sensation™ pro, the size to 120mm with vertical orientation. Click on the Mini Pic icon. Click on the 3 Dots icon and navigate to the Line options. Click on Feathers and select the second one on the top row "02 Feather Corner.mini".

Click inside of the Selection Box and move the design to the top left corner of the hoop. Click inside of the Selection Box and move the design to the top left corner of the hoop. Hover the mouse pointer over the bottom right corner of the Selection Box. When the pointer turns to a double arrow, click and drag down and to the right outer edge of the hoop and one grid above the bottom edge of the hoop. Click on the Center in Hoop icon. Click on the Design Tab.

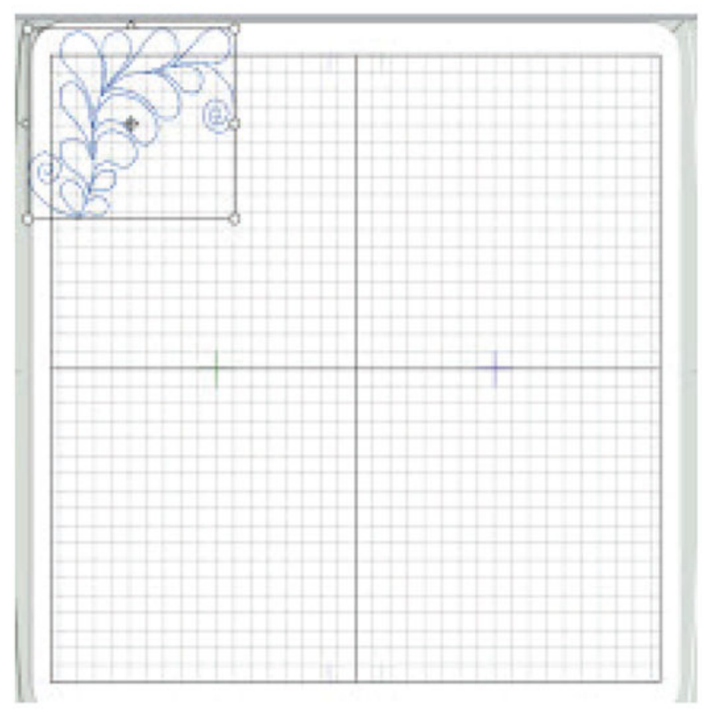
In the Trace Panel, click on the Double Trace Icon and place the mouse pointer on one of the heavier areas of lines and when the pointer turns back to an arrow left click. When the Tolerance Box appears, click OK. This will activate the Trace function and create the stitches.

Click on the Design Player Icon. Click on the Forward Arrow and the design will play out just as it will stitch. The design size should be roughly 119mm by 110mm. Click cancel to close the box.

Click on the File Menu and click on Save As and name the design Feather Corner. Click Ok. Click on the Export Icon and export as Feather Corner.vp3.

Now create the Plan for the bag. Click on the Copy Stitches Icon. Click on the Quick Link to 6D™ Embroidery Extra. Click on the View Menu. Click on Change Hoop. Change the Group to Universal, the size to 360 by 350 Multi Position Hoop with Vertical Orientation and click Ok.

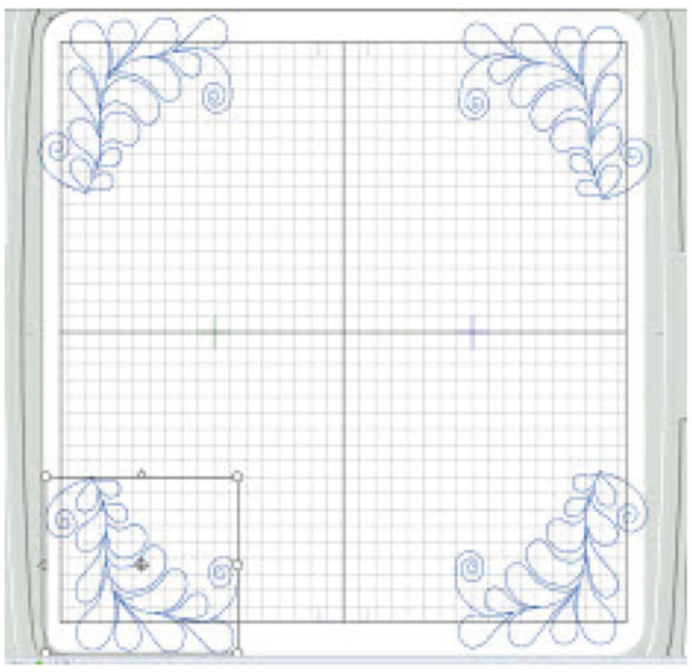
Click on the Paste Icon.



Click on the arrow on the top of the Selection Box and flip the design vertically. Click inside the Selection Box and move the design slightly outside of the hoop area at the top left corner. Click on the Copy icon and click on the Paste icon. Click on the arrow at the left of the Selection Box. Click inside the Selection

Box and move this design slightly outside of the hoop area on the top right corner. Click on Paste again. Click on Rotate 45 degrees three times and the design will be placed in the lower right corner with the correct orientation.

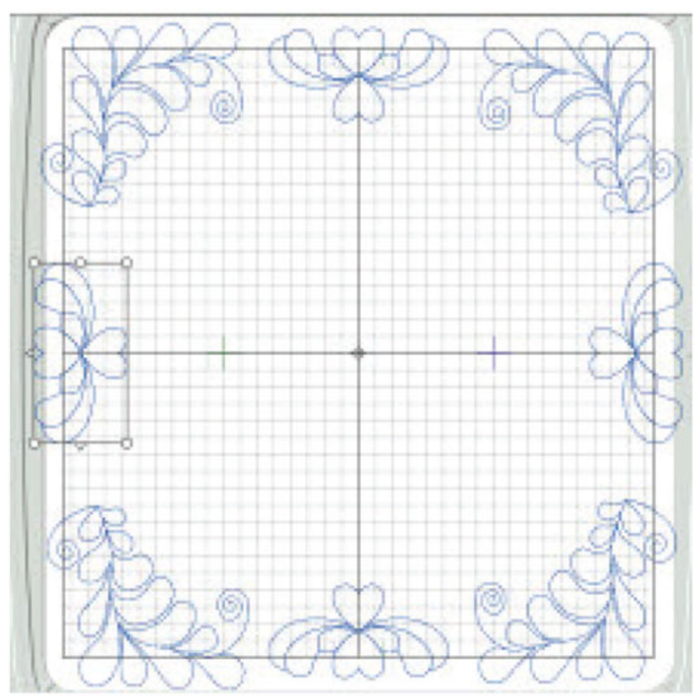
Click on Paste again. Click on the arrow at the top of the Selection Box and flip the design vertically. Click inside the Selection Box and move this design to the lower left corner outside of the hoop area.



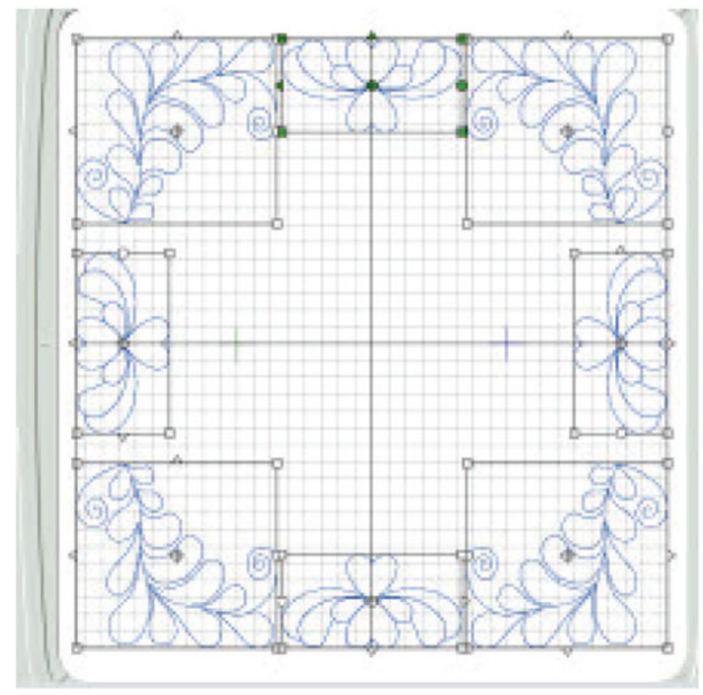
Click on the Super Design Menu. Click on the down arrow beside All and select Redwork. On the right side of the Super Designs click on the down arrow and select the fourth design in Redwork 2. Change the size to 55mm and click on Apply. Click on the Home Menu. Double click on the red color on the Color Select Panel. A dialog box will appear. Where it says Robison Anton cotton, click on the down arrow and change the Thread Range to Robison Anton Rayon 40. In the Quick Colors at the bottom of the dialog box, click on the medium blue and click ok.

Click on Copy and Paste. Click on the Rotate 45 icon twice and it will be centered on the left on the horizontal centerline. Click on Paste and click on the Rotate 45 icon four times and it will be placed in the correct spot on the bottom center.

Click on Paste and click on the Rotate 45 icon six times and it will be placed in the correct spot on the left hand side centered on the horizontal centerline.



Click on the Select All Icon and In the Layout Section click on Move into Hoop, now all of the designs are at the outermost position inside of the hoop.



Click on the Super Design Menu. The Redwork should still be selected. Click on the second design. Change the size to 180 mm and click Apply. Double click on the red color on the Color Select Panel. A dialog box will open. Where it says Robison Anton cotton, click on the down arrow and change the Thread Range to Robison Anton Rayon 40. In the Quick Colors at the bottom of the dialog box select medium blue and click OK.

Click on the Home Menu to view the stitching plan for the bag. Click on the File Menu and click on Save As. Save as Bag Plan.vp3. This is the plan for the bag not the stitching file.

Create the Stitching Files
In the Select Menu, click on the Box Select icon and draw around the three designs in the center.

Click on the Cut Icon. Click on the File Menu and select a New Window. When the new window opens - Click on the View Menu. Click on Change Hoop. Change

the Group to Universal, the size to 360 x 200 Multi Position Hoop with Vertical Orientation and click Ok. Click on the Paste Icon. On the Tools Menu, click on the down arrow beside Combine and Combine All. Click on Color Sort. Click on the Export icon and export as Bag Center.vp3. Close this window. A window will open asking to save changes. Click on No. The file has been exported for stitching and the working file is no longer needed.

Now back to the original file. To save the designs to be stitched in a 360 x 200 hoop - Save the left side first. In the Select Menu, click on Box Select around three designs on the left side.

In the Select Menu, click on the Copy Icon. Click on the File Menu and Click on Open New Window. Click on the View Menu and click on Change hoop. Change the Group to Universal and the Hoop Size to 360 x 200 and Ok. Right Click and select Paste in Center. Click on the Export icon and export as Bag Left.vp3. Close this window. A window will open asking to save to changes. Click on No. The file has been exported for stitching and the working file is no longer needed.

Now back to the original file. Repeat the steps for exporting the left side to export the right side. To export the design to be stitched in a 350 x 360 Multi Part hoop: Click on the Export icon and export as Bag Multi Part Hoop.vp3. Export the 2 Redwork design files. Click on the File Menu and click on New. When the new window opens - Click on the View Menu. Click on Change Hoop. Change the Group to Universal, the size to 200 x 200 Multi Position Hoop with Vertical Orientation and click ok. Click on the Super Design Menu. Click on the down arrow beside All and select Redwork. On the right side of the SuperDesigns, click on the down arrow and select the fourth design in Redwork 2. Change the size to 55mm and click on Apply. Click on the Home Menu. Click on

the Export Icon and Export as Redwork 1.vp3.

Click on the File Menu and click on New. A window will pop up asking to save the changes. Click on No. The file has been exported for stitching and the working file is no longer needed.

Click on the Super Design Menu. Click on the down arrow beside All and select Redwork.

On the right hand side of the SuperDesigns click on the down arrow and select the second design in Redwork 2. Change the size to 180mm and click on Apply. Click on the Home Menu.

Click on the Export Icon and Export as Redwork 2.vp3.

Preparation

Pre-shrink the fabrics then press with Mary Ellen's Best Press. Cut four pieces of Inspira® No Show Mesh 22" long. Cut two 22" squares of front fabric and batting. Mark the horizontal and vertical centerlines with a wash away marker. Fuse the Inspira® No Show Mesh to the center on the back of the batting.

Cut two 16" squares of lining fabric. Cut one 13" square of front fabric and batting for the pocket. Cut one 8 ½" square of lining for the pocket. Cut two 4" x width of fabric for handles. Cut six pieces of Fusible Inspira® No Show Mesh 4" by the width of the roll.

Place the pieces of Inspira® Fusible No Show Mesh slightly overlapping on the wrong side of the 4" x 45" handle fabric. Fuse together. Fold the strips in half lengthwise and press. Open the fold and fold each side to the center and press. Fold the strip in half again, press and set aside.

Embroidery

Stitch the Pocket. Retrieve the Hibiscus design and stitch it according to the instructions included in the Florabundance collection. Stitch the front of the bag. Download the design files to the machine or USB stick.

Grand Dream Hoop or Majestic Hoop

Hoop the fabric and batting with the Inspira® No Show Mesh Stabilizer matching the markings on the hoop with the vertical and horizontal center lines.

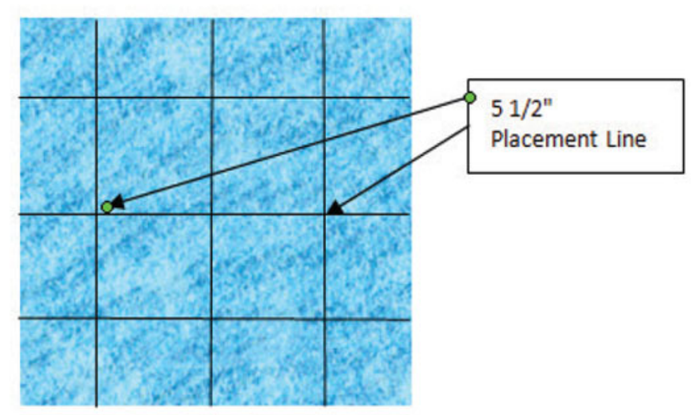
Stitch the first side according to the color order. The last to stitch is a cross in the middle of the hoop. Turn the hoop when instructed. The first stitch will move to the center. Use the positioning feature of your embroidery machine to make sure the needle is directly over the center of the cross. Stitch the second side according to the color order.

For the Center Design, hoop the fabric on the center line with the 360 x 200 hoop. Match the markings on the hoop with the horizontal and vertical centerlines.

Use the design positioning feature on your embroidery machine to make sure the design is going to be straight on the center lines. Repeat the stitching instructions for the back of the bag.

360 x 200 mm Hoops

Stitch the front of the bag. Measure 5 ½" from the center on each horizontal line and place a mark. Draw an intersecting vertical line on each of these marks for placement lines.



Hoop the fabric on the right side, centering the placement lines with the hoop's horizontal and vertical centerlines. Stitch the design. Use the machine's design positioning to make sure the design is straight on the centerlines. Stitch the design. Repeat the placement and stitching for the other side.

For the Center Design, hoop the fabric on the center line with the 360 x 200 hoop. Match the markings on the hoop with the horizontal and vertical centerlines.

Use the machine's design positioning feature to make sure the design is going to be straight on the centerlines. Repeat the stitching instructions for the back of the bag.

200 x 200 mm Hoops

Designs: Corner Feather, Redwork 1, Redwork 2 and Hibiscus

For the placement marks of the Corner Feather designs, measure from the center out 6 ½" on each diagonal center line. Draw a placement line for hooping.

For the placement marks for the designs between the corners, measure 6" on each horizontal and vertical line. Stitch each embroidery file according to the placement lines.

Repeat the stitch out for the back.

Construction

Trim the front and back to 16" square. Place the lining on the pocket right sides together. Stitch a ¼" seam around leaving an opening on the bottom edge for turning. Turn the pocket right side out. Press.

Attach the Top Stitch foot to the machine. Use the needle position feature to make a small seam (about 1/8") from the right side.

Pin the pocket on the front over the quilting design in the center of the bag. Top stitch with a small seam (about 1/8").

Top stitch the straps together with a small seam on the right side.

Repeat the top stitch on the other side of the strap on the right side. Select a decorative stipple stitch on the machine and stitch it down the center of the strap. Place the front and back pieces right sides together and stitch a ¼" seam around the sides and bottom of the bag. Turn right side out. Stitch the lining pieces right sides together leaving about a 5" opening at the lower edge for turning later. Do not turn the lining out. Pin one strap to the front of the bag about 3" from each side.

Repeat on the back of the bag. Slip the bag into the lining. Stitch together with a ¼" seam. Rinse out the markings.

Pfaff® Creative Quilter's Hoop / Husqvarna Viking® Designer Quilter's Hoop Husqvarna Viking® Pfaff® Creative Deluxe Hoop / Husqvarna Viking® Designer Royale Hoop, 6D™ Embroidery Software, Pfaff creative sensation pro are the exclusive trademarks of KSIN Luxembourg II, S.ar.l.

Lamb Lullaby Baby Blanket

By Reen Wilcoxson

Create a special one of a kind keepsake for boys or girls that is perfect for baby showers and toddlers.

Add a monogram to the blanket for a gift that will be treasured for years to come.

Embroidery Products

Lullaby Blanket Babies Set
(product # LLLBLNKTBBS) at
www.embroiderygarden.com

Materials

1 piece of fleece for the blanket
28" x 28"
1 piece of fleece for the face
6" x 9"
1 piece of Sherpa for forehead
6" x 3"
3 pieces of Sherpa for head
6" x 9"
1 piece of Sherpa for the ears
5.50" x 5.50"
1 piece of pink fleece for the ears
5.50" x 5.50"
1 piece of Sherpa for the arms
4" x 14"
1 piece of fleece for the arms
(same as the face) 4" x 14"
2 pieces of fleece for collar
5.50" x 8"
1 piece of fleece that matches the
face 3" x 3"
1 piece of fleece that matches the
blanket 3" x 3"
2 pieces of cutaway stabilizer
3" x 3"
1 package of Satin Blanket
Binding
2 Snap Sets size 20
www.kamsnaps.com
Poly-fil for stuffing the head
and arms

At the Computer

Load the files for the lamb face, ears, collar, arms, eyelet and snap placement onto your embroidery machine.

Step 1. Embroider the Face

Hoop tear away stabilizer in a 5" x 7" hoop.

Place the 6" x 9" piece of fleece, right side up, on top of stabilizer. Stitch step 1 using contrasting thread so it is easily visible. This is the head panel outline.
The next step will stitch a placement line for the forehead.

Place the 6" x 3" piece of Sherpa so it covers the placement line and stitch the next step which will tack down the Sherpa. Trim close to the stitching.

A satin stitch sews along the edge of the forehead piece.

Note: It's recommended to use a topping when stitching on fabrics with a pile.

The eyes (which will be fringed) and mouth stitch next followed by the nose.

The head panel outline stitches next around the top securing the Sherpa. Use a contrasting thread so that it is visible.

Remove the hoop from the machine and turn it to the back side. The last step is a reinforced snap placement guide. Place a 3" x 3" piece of cutaway stabilizer covering the bottom point of the head panel outline. Place the 3" x 3" fleece that matches the face over the cutaway.

Place the hoop back on the machine and stitch the snap placement.

On the back side, trim the cutaway and fleece close to the snap placement.

Remove the stabilizer.

Cut through the bobbin thread only on the eyelashes and gently lift the stitches on the front side to create the fringe.

Use the face panel as a pattern and cut 3 more panels from the 6" x 9" pieces of Sherpa.
Set these pieces aside.

Step 2. Steps for the Ears

Hoop tear away stabilizer in a 4" x 4" hoop. Place the 2 ear fabrics, right sides together, and place them on top of the stabilizer. Pin to secure.

Stitch the ears.

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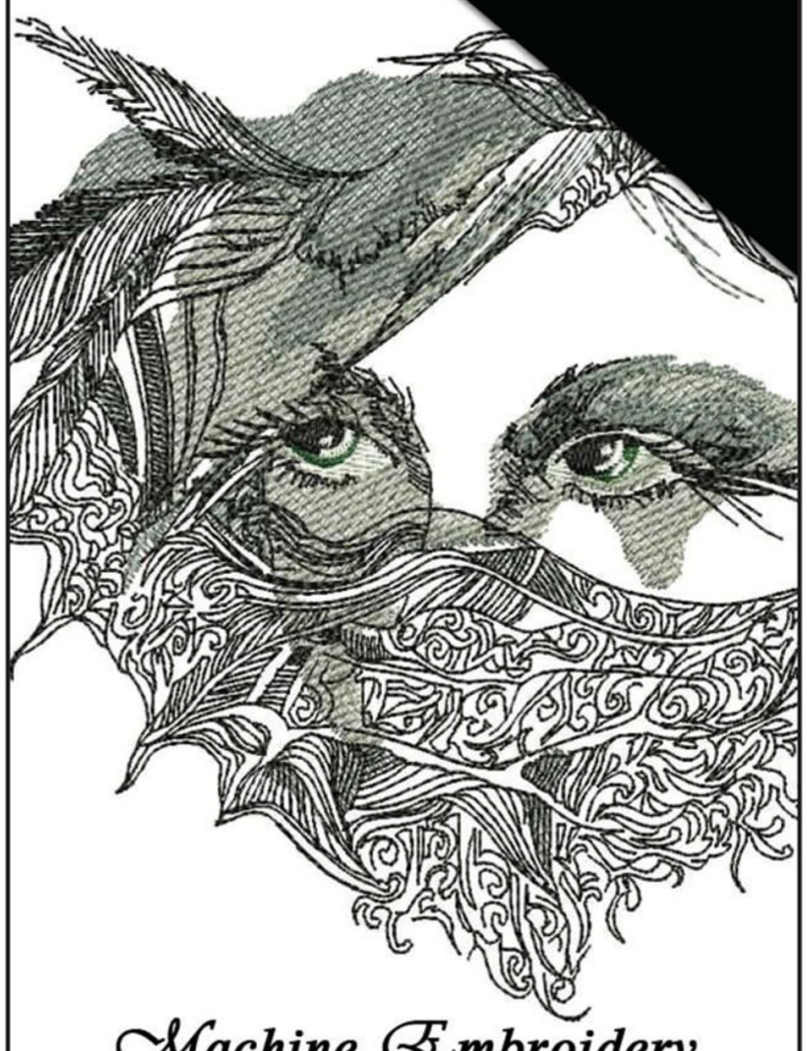
Kreations by Kara



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Applique Cafe

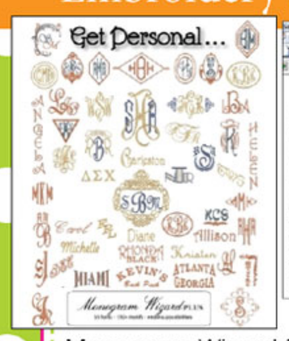
Embroidery & Applique Designs

Holiday Designs,

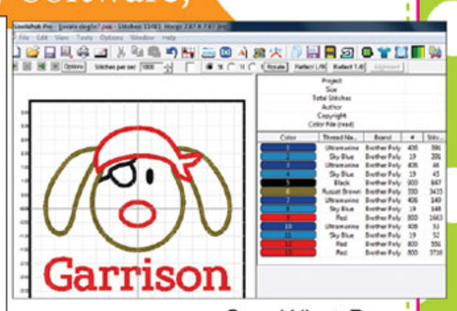
Turkey 5 Applique Design

Loopy Christmas Tree 2
Applique Design

Embroidery Software,



Monogram Wizard Plus



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Remove the stabilizer and turn the ears to the right side. Set the ears aside.

Step 3. Steps for the Collar

Hoop tear away stabilizer in a 5" x 7" hoop. Place the 2 collar fabrics, right sides together, and place them on top of the stabilizer. Pin to secure. Stitch the collar.

Remove the stabilizer. Trim around the collar and turn to the right side. Sew the opening closed. Install a snap set to the collar and set it aside.

Step 4. Steps for the Arms

Note if you do not have a hoop large enough for the arms, a printable pattern and instructions are included to easily stitch them on a sewing machine.

Hoop tear away stabilizer in a 7" x 12" hoop. Place the 2 arm fabrics, right sides together, and place them on top of the stabilizer. Pin to secure.

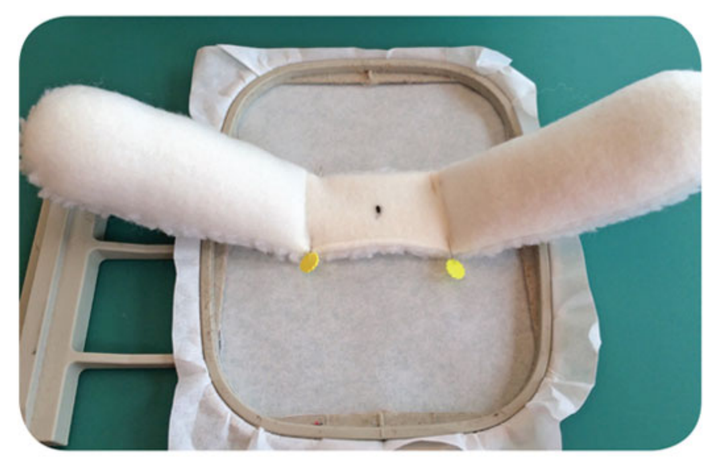
Stitch the arm piece.

Remove the stabilizer. Trim around the arms and turn to the right side.

Mark the center of the arm piece. Stuff the arms lightly to about 4" from each end. Stitch across the arms, 4 ½" from each end using a sewing machine. At this time, also stitch the opening in the arm piece closed.

TIP: Add a music button to one of the 'paws' before stuffing the arms.

The next step is to stitch the eyelet into the center of the arm piece. Hoop tear away stabilizer in a 4"x4" hoop. Pin the arm piece to the stabilizer.



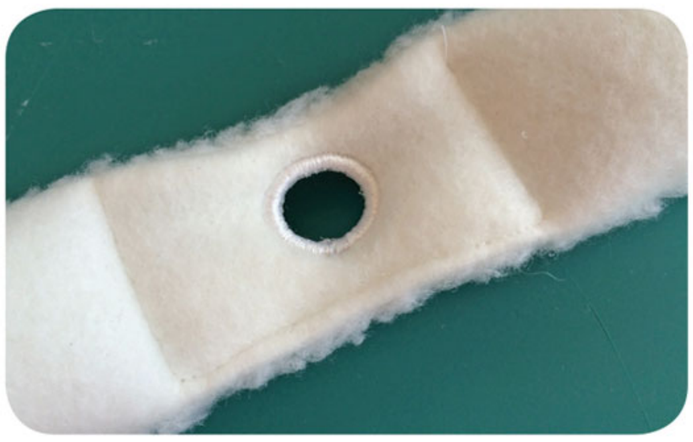
Line the needle of your machine up with the center mark.

Stitch the first step of the eyelet. Trim out the inner circle cutting away both layers of the arm piece and the stabilizer.

Add a scrap of water soluble stabilizer (WSS) to the back side of the hoop over the hole. Continue stitching the eyelet.

Remove the arm piece from the hoop. Remove the tear away stabilizer. Use a wet Q-tip to dissolve the WSS from the center of the eyelet.

Set the arm piece aside.



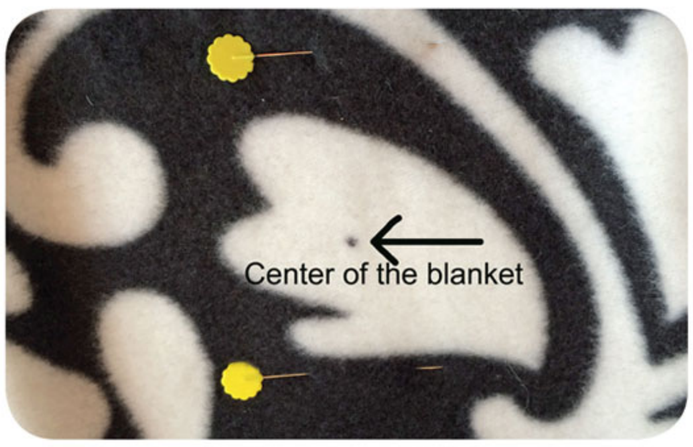
Step 5. Snap Placement for the Blanket

A reinforced placement guide for the snap goes in the center of the blanket square.

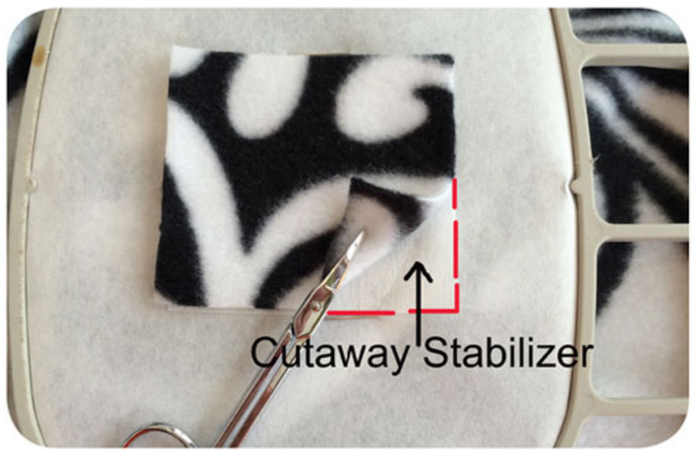
Fold the blanket in fourths to find the center and mark it on the right side.

Hoop tear away stabilizer in a 4" x 4" hoop.

Place the center mark on top of the stabilizer and pin the blanket to the stabilizer about 2" away from the mark to secure it.

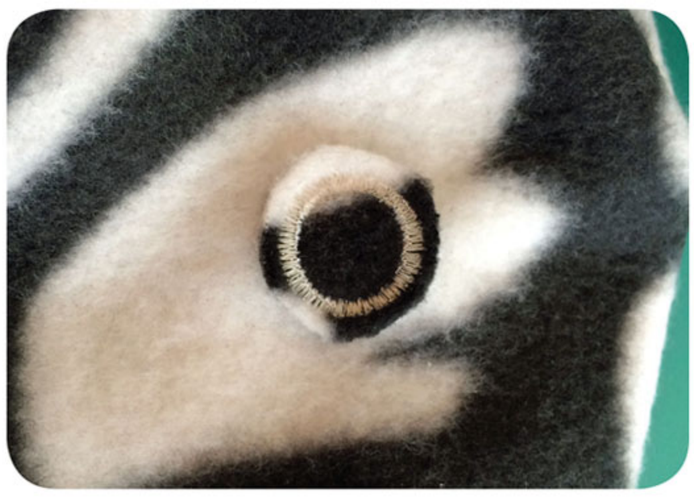


On the back side of the hoop, place a 3" x 3" piece of cutaway stabilizer under the center mark. Place the 3" x 3" fleece that matches the blanket over the cutaway stabilizer.



Place the hoop on your machine and center your needle over the center mark.

Stitch the snap placement design. Take the blanket out of the hoop and remove the stabilizer. Trim around the snap placement ¼" from the stitching.



Install the female section of the snap to the center of the placement circle.

Have the female part of the snap on the right side of the blanket.

Note: You might want to add a drop of glue under the snap before clamping it as added reinforcement.

Set the blanket aside.

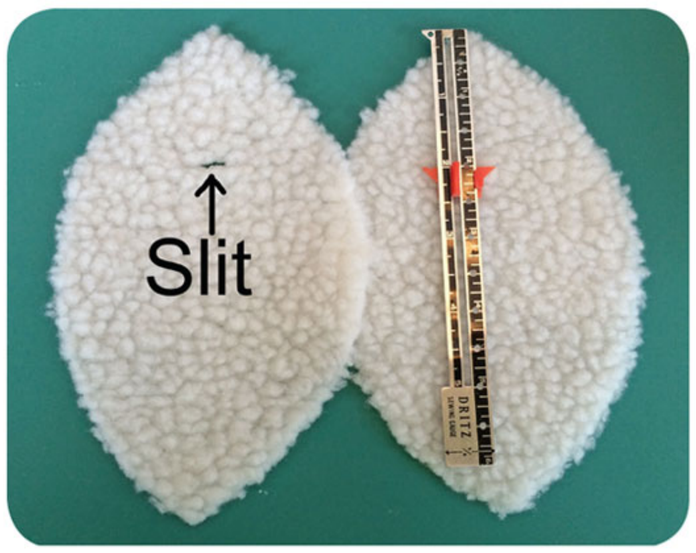
Step 6. Stitch the Head Together

Set your machine up for sewing. The head panels will be stitched together using a ¼" seam unless noted otherwise.

First, the ears will be stitched into 2 of the Sherpa head panels. Fold the ears in half at the base with the fleece to the inside. Baste the raw edge to secure them.

A slit will be cut into 2 of the Sherpa head panels so the ears can be stitched to them.

Measure 2" down from the tip of the head panel. Cut ½" slit (centered) in the panel.

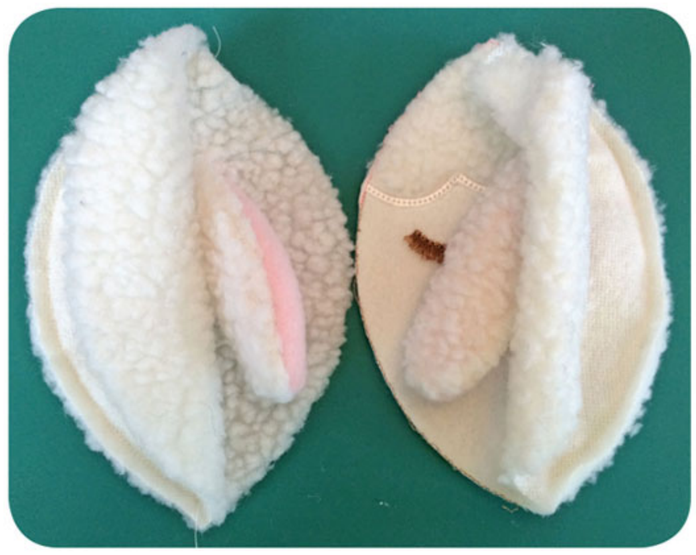


Insert the base of the ears into the head panel. Check to make sure you have the ears going in the correct direction. The face panel will be in the middle with a head/ear panel stitched to each side when finished.

Have ½" of the ear extending through the slit. Stitch the ear to the panel with 1/8" seam making sure to catch the raw edge of the slit. Check the back side of the panel to see that the raw edge has been caught. Stitch again to reinforce. Zigzagging over the edge of the slit can also be done.

Place one head/ear panel on top of the face panel, right sides together. Pin along the edge well. Start ¼" from the top (backstitch) and stitch to ¼" from the bottom point (back stitch).

Place the other head/ear panel on top of the remaining Sherpa panel, right sides together. Pin the edge well. Again make sure the ear is going the correct direction. Start ¼" from the top (backstitch) and stitch to ¼" from the bottom point (back stitch).



With the right sides together, match the bottom points of the 2 sections and pin.

Stitch a 3" semi-circle along the bottom.

Install the male snap so that the male part is on the front side of the face panel.

Match the points of the sections at the top and pin. Continue to pin around the face panel. Pin the other half together starting at the top and end about 2" from the stitching of the semi-circle.

Start sewing where the opening will be and continue around to where the stitching is at the bottom of the face using ¼" seam leaving a 2" opening.

Turn the head to the right side. Stuff the head firmly but make sure you can still grasp the snap. Ladder stitch the opening closed.

Step 7. Apply the Binding to the Blanket

Follow the package directions to apply the binding to the edge of the blanket mitering the corners.

Note: Add a beautiful monogram to one corner of the blanket.

To finish the Lullaby Blanket, place the arms, right side up, with the eyelet over the snap in the blanket. Grasp the snap on the head and snap it to the blanket. Place the collar around the neck and snap to secure it.

An Embroidery Garden and MollyMade Collaboration

Take Time for Tea!

Making time for tea is a perfect way to relax. Taking your tea with you allows you to refuel and refresh anywhere…anytime!

4" x 4" & Fabulous!

By JoAnn Connolly

In sharing my love of embroidery, I've often had people ask if a particular design is offered in a smaller size to fit the largest hoop they have and I always feel bad if I'm not able to reduce a design so that they can use it. Not everyone has an embroidery machine that includes the industry's largest hoops, so I've made it my mission to create designs that will not only offer a real "wow" factor, but will fit in the one hoop almost every embroiderer has – the 4" x 4".

Embroidery Products

Garden of Daisies "Take Time for Tea!" (GOD079) set at www.gardenofdaisies.com
The tea wallet measures 10" x 5" when open and 5" x 5" closed.
The mug mat measures 4 ¼" square.
Three files are included:
GOD079A: the tea wallet front motif
GOD079B: the in-the-hoop mug mat
GOD079C: the tea bag tags

Materials

Four fat quarters of teal/aqua and coordinating quilting-weight cotton prints
Small pieces of three additional coordinating printed cottons
One 8" square of white cotton for mug mat base fabric
One 8" square of fusible no-show mesh stabilizer for mug mat
Teal, aqua, purple, lavender and white embroidery thread
Peel and stick tear-away stabilizer
White regular sewing thread
Water soluble marker
One 3 ¼" square and one 10" x 5" piece of fusible fleece
Four 4" x 2" pieces of paper-backed fusible web, such as Wonder Under® by Pellon®, for the tags
Temporary spray adhesive
One silver eyelet for each tag and eyelet setting tool
Leather hole punch or awl
Pinking or scalloping shears
Spray starch

Step 1. Prep the Fabrics

Tea Wallet

Cut one 10" x 5" piece of printed cotton for the outside of the tea wallet.

Cut one 10" x 5" piece of a different cotton print for the inside of the tea wallet.

Fuse the 10" x 5" piece of fusible fleece to the back of the inside wallet fabric.

For the three tea bag wallet inner pockets, cut the following from three different fabrics:
One 5" x 4" piece
One 5" x 5 ½" piece
One 5" x 7" piece

Cut one 5" square of printed cotton for the inner diagonal, mug mat pocket.

Cut two 1 ¾" x 5" strips of printed cotton for the center "spine" strips.

Cut one 2" x 33" piece of printed cotton for the wallet binding.

Mug Mat

Fuse the 8" square of fusible no-show mesh to the back of the 8" white cotton square.

Cut one 8" square of one of the cotton prints for the backing of the mug mat.

Center and fuse the 3 ¼" square of fusible fleece on the 8" square backing fabric piece.

Cut a 1" x 5" piece of each of the seven cotton prints.

Tea Bag Tags

Four tags are included in the stitch file so you can make four at once. Cut one 2" x 4" piece of printed cotton for each tea bag tag. Apply four to five coats of spray starch to the tag fabrics to stiffen them. Fuse a 4" x 2" piece of paper- backed fusible web to the back of each piece of tag fabric. Remove the paper from the back of each piece. Fold each piece in half horizontally and press to fuse to wrong sides together.

Step 2. Embroider the Tea Wallet

Apply two to three coats of spray starch to the wallet front fabric.

Using the marker, make a mark on the wallet front fabric 2 ½" over from the right side and 2 ½" up from the bottom edge. Hoop the adhesive stabilizer.

Carefully remove the protective paper by scoring around the inner perimeter of the hoop with a pin, being careful not to score through the stabilizer itself. Mark the center of the hooped stabilizer with the marker. Adhere the wallet front fabric to the hooped stabilizer aligning the two marks.

Send GOD079A to the machine.

Place the hoop in the machine. Stitch color 1, the "Tea" text, in teal thread. Stitch color 2, the teacup, pot handle, spout and lid handle, in lavender thread. Stitch color 3, the teapot, in purple thread. Stitch color 4, the design outline in aqua thread. Remove the work from the hoop. Carefully tear the stabilizer away from the outer square stitching, leaving the stabilizer within the design itself.

Step 3. Construct the Tea Wallet

Fold the three inner pocket pieces in half horizontally and press. Stack the inner pocket pieces, having the tallest one in the back and the bottom, cut edges aligned. Baste the stacked, inner pocket pieces to the lower left corner of the inside wallet fabric.

Fold the 5" printed cotton square in half diagonally and press. Baste the pressed piece to the inside wallet fabric along the right side and bottom edges.

Fold the inside and outside wallet pieces in half vertically and press. Fold under ¼" on the long edges of the two 1 ¾" x 5" strips and press. Pin one strip to the inside wallet fabric and one strip to the outside wallet fabric, centering them over the pressed vertical fold. Edge-stitch the strips in place along each folded edge.

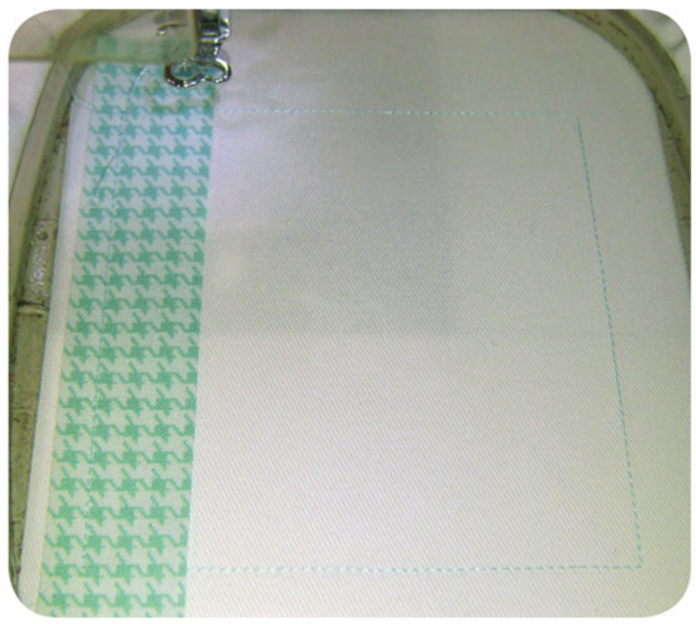
With wrong sides together, baste the outside wallet piece and the inside wallet piece together around the outer edges. Fold the 2" x 33" binding strip in half length-wise. Fold the long outer edges in to the center fold and press. Fold one end of the binding ¼" to the wrong side and press.

With right sides together, pin the binding to the outer wallet fabric around the outer edge, folding each corner in at an angle, creating a faux "mitered" corner. Stitch the binding in place using a ½" seam. Fold the binding to the inside of the wallet, folding each corner in at an angle, creating a faux mitered corner. Stitch the binding in place close to the fold by hand or machine, overlapping the ends.

Step 4. Embroider the Mug Mat

Hoop the 8" square of fusible-mesh-backed white cotton, having it centered in the hoop. Send GOD079B to the machine. Place the hoop in the machine. Stitch color 1, the outline of the mug mat. Decide on the placement of the cotton strips for the mug mat. Stitch color 2, the placement

stitching for the left-most vertical strip. Place the first strip right side up so that the left edge of the strip is aligned with the placement stitching. Stitch color 3, the tackdown of the first fabric strip.



Place the second strip over the first strip with right sides together. Stitch color 4, the tackdown of the second strip. Fold the strip over and to the right so that the right side is facing up and finger-press into place.

Place the third strip on top of the second strip with right sides together. Stitch color 5, which will tack the strip in place. Fold that strip over and to the right and finger-press in place. Continue the above steps with the remaining strips, stitching colors 6, 7, 8 & 9.

Remove the hoop from the machine but do not remove the work from the hoop. Spray the back of the mug mat backing piece (with the 3 ¼" square

of fusible fleece piece) with temporary adhesive. Turn the hoop over and adhere the backing fabric piece to the hooped fabric, making sure that the fusible fleece square is centered inside the mug mat outline stitching.
Place the hoop back in the machine, being careful not to displace the backing fabric piece. Stitch color 10, which will tack the mug mat backing to the white, hooped cotton piece and create the horizontal quilting stitches. Remove the work from the hoop.

Step 5. Construct the Mug Mat

Trim the top layer (white cotton with stitched strips) to ¼" around the outer-most stitching of the mug mat. Trim the backing fabric to 1" around the outer-most stitching of the mug mat. Fold the backing to the front and press. Fold the cut edge of the backing to the edge of the mug mat, creating a "faux" ½" binding, and pin in place. Fold the corners in at an angle to create faux mitered corners and pin. Edge-stitch around the binding to secure.

Step 6. Construct the Tea Bag Tags

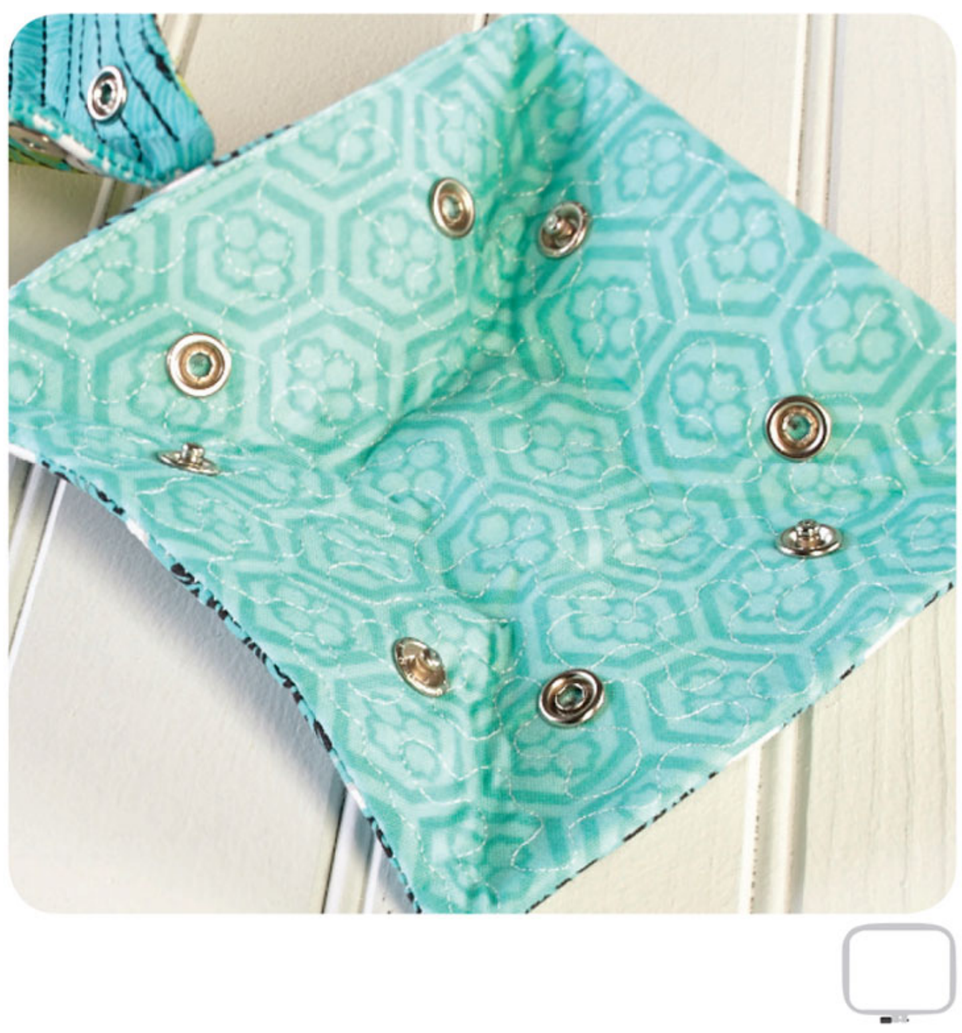
Hoop a piece of adhesive stabilizer. Carefully remove the protective paper by scoring around the inner perimeter of the hoop with a pin, being careful not to score through the stabilizer itself. Stitch color 1, the placement stitching for the tag fabrics. Place one folded 2" square of fabric over each tag outline and press into place. Stitch color 2, the tag shape on each square.

Remove the hoop from the machine and remove the work from the hoop. Carefully tear the stabilizer away from the back of the work. Trim around the tag approximately 1/8" from the stitching using pinking or scalloping shears. Make a hole near the top of the tag with a punch or awl. Insert a metal eyelet and set it according to manufacturer's instructions. Attach a real teabag to fabric tag by removing the paper tag and threading the string through the eyelet. Tie the string to secure.

...Continued From Page 51

Print the template for snap placement and position it on each corner of the finished tray.

Mark the location for each snap and follow the purchased snap directions for inserting the snap sections. I suggest practicing on a fabric layer before inserting on final fabric block.



Fabrics 101

Crafty Notions for Rubber Waffle Weave

By Deb Mundinger & Kenny Christopher

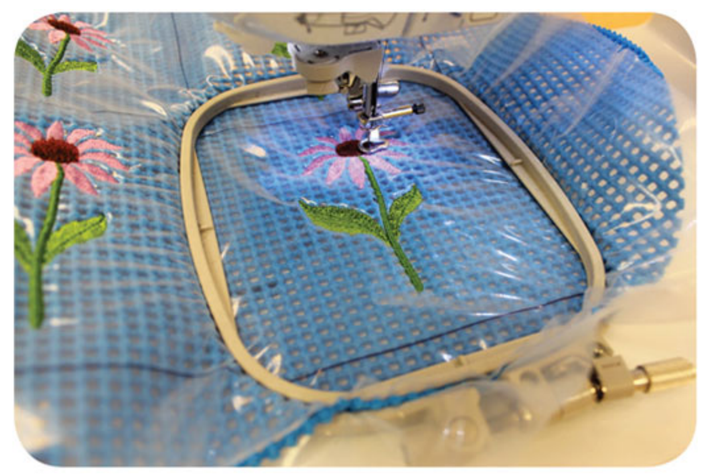
As artists and designers, we love seeing how embroiderers use the designs that we create. Enis, a talented embroiderer from Michigan, inspired us with photos of her bright and colorful table settings. She embroidered long-stemmed flower designs on rubber waffle placemats, and the result is absolutely stunning.

Rubber waffle placemats are jute netting, coated with PVC. In the warmer months we find them in stores like Target and Bed, Bath and Beyond – but they're available year-round at online stores like Amazon and Overstock. And the best part? They come in every color in the rainbow.

In the last issue we shared tips on how to embroider on this unusual "fabric." Choose designs with simple, solid fills. Avoid designs that have running stitches (like Redwork) or light designs, because those types of stitches will fall into the open areas.

Hoop the placemat between two pieces of water soluble stabilizer, and use a 75/11 or size 11 sharp sewing needle.

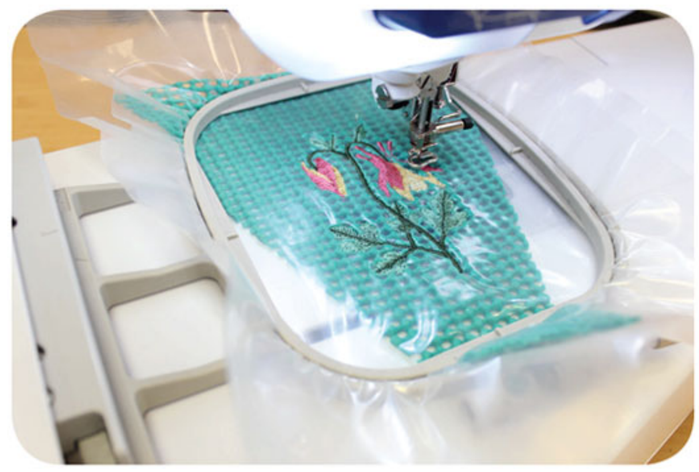
Wind a bobbin with the same thread used in the needle so that the placemat looks pretty from both sides.



After making placemats for the picnic table, we couldn't stop from making more decorations and accessories, too!

The placemats are oval, and measure 18" x 12". We were able to make four coasters from one placemat.

Draw four squares on the placemat, each measuring 5". Hoop the placemat between two pieces of watersoluble stabilizer, and embroider a design in each square. After embroidering, cut out the squares, then tear the excess stabilizer away. Remove any remaining bits with a damp sponge. It's a sweet coordinating piece for the picnic table!



Bunting is a popular home and garden decoration. Cut triangles from the placemat, and embroider your favorite designs. Attach ribbon to the top, and hang on walls, trees, and windows for a bright and vibrant effect.

Many thanks to Enis Blizman and the Viking Sewing Gallery in Taylor, MI. They were pioneers in working with this unusual and fascinating "fabric." Their ideas and project photos are inspiring!

Tips

Design choice: Choose designs with simple but solid fills; light designs will get "lost" in the texture.

Stabilizer: Water soluble (like Vilene) or tear-away on the back side; watersoluble on top.

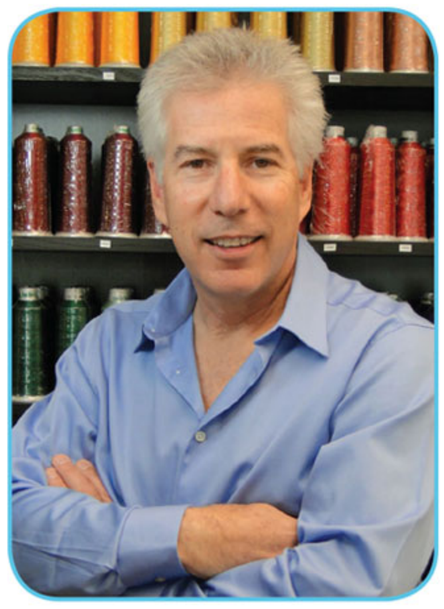
Needle: 75/11 sharp sewing needle; an embroidery needle may also be used

Deb Mundinger, President, and Kenny Christopher, Vice President, are two savvy stitchers from Embroidery Library, Inc. Visit their website at www.emblibrary.com.

Designs featured:
Long-Stemmed Wildflowers
X3277, X3278
Wildflowers, X3279

Great Scott!

By Scott Goodman



Scott Goodman, owner of Sewing Machine Warehouse & Kneedle.com has been servicing the sewing public since 1976.

Eleven Questions with Steve Wilson

Steve Wilson is the founder of Anita Goodesign, an embroidery design company that has grown to over 65 employees, creating projects and sharing their creativity throughout the U.S., at more than 300 special events, hosting over 25,000 participants annually. Anita Goodesign was recognized by Inc. Magazine as one of the fastest-growing private companies in America. Their mission: "To bring fun and creativity back to home embroidery with gorgeous designs and affordable prices".

Great Scott!: What led you into machine embroidery?

Steve Wilson: I started as a graphic artist, creating designs for silkscreened t-shirts. In 1993 at age 23 I started a custom monogram business with my mother, Linda. The monogram business turned into a clip-art oriented, shirt embroidery business. With the demand for custom logos and designs, we made a $50,000 investment in DOS-based digitizing software. The software was complicated, not user-friendly at all. I used that original software to build skills while creating custom logos and designs for businesses and individuals.

Great Scott!: Tell me how your designs and digitizing evolved?

Steve Wilson: In the mid 90s, I created licensed designs for Disney, Looney Tunes and sports logos. Larger scale original designs for home dec and high-end textiles came later. I didn't want to do clip art, or smaller 4" x 4" and 5" x 7" designs.

Great Scott!: With your start in silkscreening what differences did you notice when you changed medium?

Steve Wilson: In physical painting, brush strokes are dimensional, thread is the same. Stitches flow. Stitch direction and lines give life to designs. You don't get that by converting clip art.

Great Scott!: Where do you get your artistic inspiration?

Steve Wilson: All of my inspiration comes from outside our industry. Interior design influences, *Architectural Digest*, *Elle Decor*, post modernism, baroque, shabby chic, couture fashion, *Vogue* magazine.

Great Scott!: So how does the creative process work at Anita Goodesign?

Steve Wilson: Twice each year, 40 of our in-house employees collaborate during a 2-day retreat. Each person has 10 minutes to pitch their ideas. Then, we break into groups that develop the ideas into designs and themes. We are continually working 12 months in advance.

Great Scott!: Many of our readers will want to know what kind of software you drive?

Steve Wilson: We use software brands that many home embroiderers are using. Today, off-the-shelf programs are much better than professional software was even 5 years ago.

Great Scott!: What makes Anita Goodesign staff unique?

Steve Wilson: Our staff is young, 24-40 years old, and hip; with new perspective, new energy and fresh ideas. If you came by our headquarters, you would

hear loud music and see staff members unwinding in our beverage center while playing Xbox games. Our events are curriculum-based. Our 20 educators conduct 350 hosted events across the country. This year, we shared Anita's Playhouse; featuring baby designs based on established characters that will become old friends in upcoming events, like Anita's Christmas Train.

Great Scott!: And your product?

Steve Wilson: I looked at retail experiences like Apple and Anthropologie. Why shouldn't packaging and materials be fresh and bright, compelling and emotional?

Great Scott!: With technology in a constant state of change, companies like Apple and Microsoft no longer include CD/DVD drives in their new computers. How are you adapting?

Steve Wilson: People still need to see and touch our product. Our projects are book-based. While we will still include physical media, we are moving to a cloud-based system and are adapting by remastering 700 of our original designs; tweaking older designs and updating design files for modern machines. These designs will be available to users that purchased the original disks. Our new website will maintain virtual purchases and manages your design wish list. Of course, you will be able to access your virtual library on tablets and mobile devices.

Great Scott!: What else is in Anita's pipeline?

Steve Wilson: Watch for Anita's Perfect Sewing Room. This will be a really cool way to decorate your sewing room, with projects like: pin cushion, organizer, and USB stick organizer. This set will combine warm and cozy shabby-chic with modern elements. Anita's Decorated Table will include: Napkin corners, table-cloth edges, bread basket, and linking borders. These projects can be completed in a class segment. All of these projects will have functionality.

Great Scott!: When we started, you told us about your mother, Linda. What is Linda up to, today?

Steve Wilson: Retired, making stuff for grandchildren. Her 5 and 6-year-old grandchildren are already having fun, using their first 5" x 7" embroidery machine.

Did I forget a question that you would have asked? Let me know. GreatScott@kneedle.com and don't forget to "like" me, I share real-time info, as it breaks, on your favorite new products: Facebook.com/GreatScottSews

Buyers Guide

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**IFC = Inside Front Cover*

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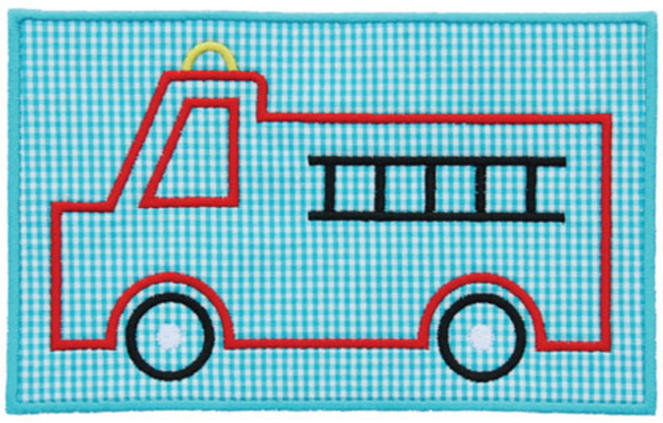

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Monogram of the Month

By Denise Holguin

Preface: My friend Gus asked me to embroider a pillowcase as a birthday gift for his wife, Sophia. I agreed and expected him to purchase a pillowcase. Instead, he sewed the pillowcase and presented it to me to embroider. I was so touched that a husband would do that for his wife. Not only that—he crafted a special sentiment he wanted embroidered.

This timeline below showcases my embroidery 'journey'. I share my humbling tale so that you may find solace. The creative process is indeed a process—full of ups and downs but this is how we grow and gain experience!

6:00 PM. I guess I should start stitching the pillowcase. I am relieved Eileen improved the layout of my design. My original versions weren't as artistic as I wanted. My biggest concern is hooping the pillowcase. It's probably wise for me to stitch a test sample. I am glad Gus bought tons of extra fabric—hopefully I won't need it to make a new pillowcase.

6:30 PM. Everyone at the office left for the weekend. Eileen gave me advice on hooping and assured me I could call if I needed help. Now it's just me, the pillowcase and dozens of tools. I felt like Sheldon from the Big Bang theory. This pillowcase HAS to be perfect. I better unhoop it and try again.

This is an important engineering feat. Wait… no, it's just a pillowcase. But it really does need to be precision placed. Yes, I should unhoop and try using a different method...

7:38 PM. I sent a frustrated text to my friend: "the opposite of fun is right now! I will never ever agree to stitch something special for someone else. It's so difficult! No, it's impossible! However… I did learn how to use the camera function on THE Dream Machine… so that's a positive."

7:45 PM. I guess it's time to hit the Start button to take my first stitch. I wondered if I would look back at that moment with regret. I looked at the design on-screen—it indicated it will take 31 minutes to stitch. After that time, I will know if the design is crooked or not. But by that time it's too late. This is highly stressful.

7:51 PM. Wow! This is working! It's absolutely working! The rich purple thread I chose is perfect!

7:53 PM. I kept a watchful eye on the machine as it stitched. Because the pillowcase is cylindrical (and a tight fit) in the hoop, I had to make sure the excess fabric didn't get caught during stitching. I should have listened to Eileen and used one of our Hoop Guards. That would have helped.

There was a brief moment I took my eyes and hands away from the excess fabric. Sure enough, the fabric got eaten by the machine. I remained calm. I can fix this.

I carefully clipped away the few stitches that were eating the fabric. Then I used the machine's stitch advance/reverse feature to back up and redo the stitches.

8:00 PM. Look at me! I've got skills.

8:15 PM. I sent a photo to my friend showing the progress. My friend's reply, "Because stitching text wasn't challenging enough, you had to add the butterfly! You really challenged yourself!"

8:34 PM. My ears perked up to the familiar, comforting chime of the embroidery machine, indicating the design finished stitching. The friendly smiley face appeared on the machine, as if sharing in my joy of accomplishment.

I examined the pillowcase, still hooped in the machine and proclaimed, "I stitched my first pillowcase!"

About the design:
Butterfly from Kreations by Kara.
www.kreationsbykara.com
Search: BB Shadowed
Lettering from Perfect Embroidery Pro software. The path tool was used to create a unique curved effect.

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